Alberta
HUMAN RESOURCES AND EMPLOYMENT

the people & workplace department

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Occupational Injuries and Diseases in Alberta

2001 Summary

Lost-Time Claims and Claim Rates

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Table of Contents

Highlights 1

1. Introduction 2

2. Alberta Human Resources and Employment Initiatives for Workplace Health and Safety 4

3. Alberta Industry Total 6

4. Injury and Disease Analysis 9
   4.1 Injured Worker Characteristics 9
   4.2 Nature of Injury and Disease 14
   4.3 Part of Body Affected 16
   4.4 Source of Injury or Disease 18
   4.5 Type of Event 20
   4.6 Duration of Disability Due to Injury or Disease 22

5. Industry Sector Summary 23
   5.1 Agriculture and Forestry 26
   5.2 Mining and Petroleum Development 28
   5.3 Manufacturing and Processing 32
   5.4 Construction and Construction Trade Services 37
   5.5 Transportation, Communication and Utilities 41
   5.6 Retail and Wholesale Trade Services 45
   5.7 Public Administration, Education and Health Services 48
   5.8 Business, Personal and Professional Services 51

6. Occupational Fatalities Accepted by the Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) 54
   6.1 Description of Fatalities Accepted by the WCB 54
   6.2 Occupational Fatality Rates in Industry Sectors 56

References 59

APPENDIX A: Terms, Definitions and Formulas 60
APPENDIX B: WCB Industry Codes 63
APPENDIX C: Selected Graphs 71

Contacts 77

Highlights

In 2001,

- The risk of injury in Alberta workplaces was 3.2 lost-time claims per 100 person-years worked. The rate of 3.2 per 100 person-years worked is tied for the lowest rate that has been recorded and has occurred only once before, in 1999. The duration rate was 99 days lost for every 100 person-years worked.

- There were 37,927 workplace injuries and diseases serious enough to miss at least one day of work. This translates to one disabling occupational injury or disease every 14 minutes.

- The risk of injury decreased in all industry sectors except Manufacturing and Processing where the rate remained the same. Manufacturing and Processing continues to have the highest lost-time claim rate of 5.0 per 100 person-years worked.

- The industry sectors with lost-time claim rates higher than the provincial average continued to be Manufacturing and Processing; Agriculture and Forestry; Transportation, Communication and Utilities; and Construction and Construction Trade Services.

- Employers with 40 to less than 100 person-years worked had the highest lost-time claim rate of 3.7 per 100 person-years worked followed by employers with less than 40 person-years worked with a claim rate of 3.2 per 100 person-years worked.

- Lack of job experience had an association with increased injury at the workplace.

- The three occupations with the largest number of injuries and diseases with time away from work were truck drivers, non-construction labourers and welders and cutters.

- Sprains, strains and tears continued to be the leading nature of injury with the trunk, being the most commonly injured body part. Overexertion was the most common cause for lost-time claims.

- Alberta Workers' Compensation Board accepted 118 occupational fatalities. Of these, about 34% were incidents of occupational disease, 34% were motor vehicle incidents and 32% were workplace incidents.

Between the years 1992 and 2001,

- There have been about 100 fatalities for every million person-years worked.

- Fatality rates continued to be higher than average in Agriculture and Forestry; Construction and Construction Trade Services; Transportation, Communication and Utilities; and Mining and Petroleum Development.

1. Introduction

Alberta Human Resources and Employment (AHRE) invests in people and workplaces. AHRE develops and delivers programs and services, which contribute to workplaces that are safe, healthy, fair and stable for employees and employers. Workplace Health and Safety is part of the continuum of services provided by Alberta Human Resources and Employment. The Department promotes the development of effective work site health and safety management systems and compliance programs and supports fair and effective resolution of workplace issues. AHRE works in partnership with Alberta Workers' Compensation Board (WCB), safety associations, employers, workers and labour to promote prevention of workplace injuries and diseases.

To this end, AHRE recognizes that monitoring workplace health and safety will help to ensure that primary concerns are actively managed and that resources are directed where needed. To parallel the increase in workforce covered by Alberta legislation, the number of Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) officers dedicated to enforcement was increased. The officers are responsible for: ensuring that workers and employers are knowledgeable about Occupational Health and Safety Act; investigating serious incidents, fatalities and complaints; performing workplace inspections; and ensuring compliance with regulations if employers are found to be in violation.

Role of Alberta Human Resources and Employment

AHRE helps employers and workers ensure safe, healthy and productive workplaces in Alberta by:

- Providing workplace health and safety information and assistance to all Albertans.
- Investigating serious incidents and complaints about potential work site hazards.
- Partnering with industry leaders and safety associations to develop health and safety programs.
- Enforcing the *Occupational Health and Safety Act.*

2001 Lost-Time Claim Summary

In order to provide a comprehensive picture of workplace health and safety, AHRE prepares an annual summary of occupational injury and illness, which results in time lost from work. This report includes:

- A descriptive summary of programs and initiatives undertaken by AHRE in pursuit of its mission and goals.
- An estimation of the risk of injury or illness (the lost-time claim rate) in addition to descriptive information regarding the incidents and injured workers.
- Lost-time claim rates at the provincial, major industry sector and industry sub-sector level.
- Analysis of the lost-time injury and illness claims to provide a broader context for the lost-time injury and illness rate.
- Occupational fatalities accepted by WCB for compensation and fatality rates for the major industry sectors.

While this report focuses on 2001 data, corresponding information for 2000 is also provided for comparison and where possible, historical data are also presented. Throughout the report, lost-time claim rate will represent the number of claims per 100 person-years worked and duration rate will represent the number of days lost per 100 person-years worked.

About two-thirds of all those employed in Alberta are represented in this report. Exceptions are some agriculture, financial services and federally regulated workers. The information presented in this report is based on incidents of injury or illness that occurred during 2001 and were accepted as lost-time incidents by WCB as of March 31, 2002.

Terms, definitions, and formulas used throughout this report are described in Appendix A. Industry codes are presented in Appendix B and selected graphs in Appendix C.

2. Alberta Human Resources and Employment Initiatives for Workplace Health and Safety

AHRE continued to ensure compliance and inspection programs focused on specific industry sectors and employers in 2001. These programs focused on:

- Significant uncontrolled hazards; and
- Poor occupational health and safety performance based on lost time claim rates, duration rates and WCB Poor Performance Surcharges.

In addition, officers investigated workplace fatalities, serious incidents and complaints regarding occupational health and safety issues. Five new temporary OHS Officers were hired to conduct inspections on targeted employers.

In order to improve the quality of prosecutions (under the Occupational Health and Safety Act), a cost-sharing agreement was concluded between Alberta Justice and AHRE. As a result, Alberta Justice has now assigned a full-time Crown Prosecutor dedicated to OHS Act prosecutions.

Substantial improvements were made in the areas of workplace health and safety information and communication:

- The availability of Workplace Health and Safety materials was increased through providing sixty information binders to Labour Market Information Centres across the province.
- Use of the Workplace Health and Safety web site (www.whs.gov.ab.ca) increased, as did the amount and variety of material available on the site. Questions (both on the web site and by other means) directed to departmental technical staff have provided insight into health- and safety-related information needs, and thus into ongoing improvement of the web site. The web site received 388,274 hits during 2001, increasing from 9,158 in January to 61,508 in November and 49,221 in December;
- The new provincial Workplace Health and Safety Call Centre (1-866-415-8690), which responds to queries and accepts incident reports and complaints, is now fully operational. During 2001, Call Centre counselors responded to 27,663 calls.

More resource materials targeting young and inexperienced workers were developed:

- A new booklet and poster called *X-treme Safety: survival tips for rookies in the workplace* were released in November 2001. Copies are now being distributed through placement centres, high school and college guidance counselors, and employers. Electronic versions of the booklet and poster are available for download on the department's web site;
- The web site has a dedicated section for young and inexperienced workers; and
- A contest on the web site is targeted to such workers.

A key initiative is to continue the reduction of work-related injuries and to ensure that the most appropriate technical and scientific standards are incorporated into the workplace safety rules prescribed in the regulations. During 2000-2001, a review of all occupational health and safety regulations was completed. This process included consultation with industry and labour. As a result of the consultation, AHRE will be consolidating all occupational health and safety regulations into one regulation. Legal drafting of the consolidated regulation is underway.

Workplace Health and Safety Partnership's Program promotes the development of effective health and safety management systems within companies. The department believes that supporting health and safety programs leads to larger reductions in injuries than regulatory compliance alone. Through partnerships with safety associations, industry groups, education institutes and labour organizations, a framework has been established to promote and certify health and safety programs. A Certificate of Recognition is given to employers who develop health and safety programs that meet established standards. Through Partners in Injury Reduction, the WCB works with AHRE, industry partners, safety associations, employers and labour groups to offer WCB premium incentives to employers who reduce their claim costs below predicted targets and meet specified standards for health and safety (i.e., a Certificate of Recognition). Also, it is not unusual for Alberta corporations to expect contractors bidding on projects to hold a valid Certificate of Recognition.

In 2001 the number of employers holding a valid Certificate of Recognition increased from 3,734 to 4,100. This number represents approximately 35% of the Alberta workforce. A designation of Certifying Partner is given to partners who are responsible for assessing the quality of health and safety programs in Alberta, and issuing Certificates of Recognition to employers. Alberta's 15 Certifying Partners updated their health and safety audit instruments to meet the new Partnerships Standard, which will be implemented in 2002.

3. Alberta Industry Total

A total of 37,927 injuries and illnesses that required recuperation away from work beyond the day of the incident were reported in workplaces during 2001. This number represents a decrease of about 1.4% from that of 2000 and translates into one disabling occupational injury or illness about every 14 minutes. In contrast, person-years worked (an estimate of employment) rose by 5% to 1,178,582 between 2000 and 2001 (see Table 3.1).

The lost-time claim rate represents the probability or risk of a disabling injury or disease to a worker during a period of one year of work. The 2001 lost-time claim rate[1] was 3.2 per 100 person-years worked, a decrease of about 5.9% from that of 2000 (see Table 3.1). The rate of 3.2 per 100 person-years worked is tied for the lowest rate that has been recorded and has occurred only once before, in 1999. The lost-time claim rate of 3.2 per 100 person-years worked translates to about 16 injuries and illnesses per million hours worked.

Employers with 40 to less than 100 person-years worked had the highest lost-time claim rate (3.7 per 100 person-years worked) followed by employers with 20 to less than 40 person-years worked (3.5 per 100 person-years worked). Large employers with 100 or more person-years worked had the lowest claim rate of 3.1 per 100 person-years worked.

In 2001, although young workers (15-24 years) represented 17% of those employed in Alberta[2], they accounted for 22% of the injured workers (see Table 4.1A). The industries with high lost-time claims among young workers were Retail and Wholesale Trade, Manufacturing and Processing and Construction and Construction Trade Services. These three industry sectors accounted for over 65% of lost-time claims among young workers. Although workers aged 45 and older represented 32% of those employed in Alberta in 2001[3], they only accounted for 25% of injured workers. One of the key initiatives of Workplace Health and Safety in 2001 was to enhance the scope and methods of communicating the importance of health and safety at the work site, especially for inexperienced workers.

Estimates of injury and illness severity are made by using information on the number of days away from work to recuperate from each disabling condition. Two basic measures of severity are the median days away from work and the duration rate. In Alberta, the median[4] number of workdays lost was 8, identical to that of 2000. The duration rate[5] - the number of workdays lost per 100 person-years worked indicates, in part, the economic impact of occupational injury and disease. In Alberta, the duration rate of 99 days per 100 person-years worked in 2001 was about 4.8% lower than in 2000 (see Table 3.1).

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[1] The rate has been calculated from lost-time claims data as of March 31, 2002. This rate underestimates the risk of occupational injury and disease since some lost-time claims that occurred in 2001 were not administered by March 31, 2002.

[2] Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey.

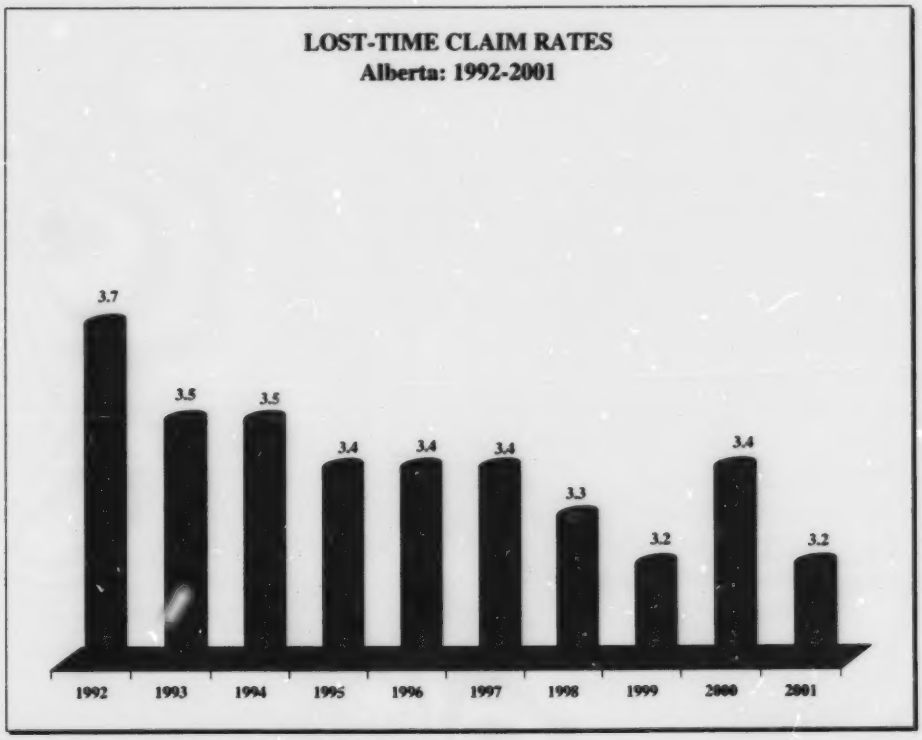
[3] Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey.

[4] A median workday lost designates the point at which half of the total cases involved more days and half involved fewer days.

[5] Duration rates reported here are based on preliminary data.

Table 3.1
Injury and Disease Statistics[6]
Alberta

	2000	2001	Percentage Change
Estimated Person-Years	1,122,785	1,178,582	5.0%
Lost-Time Claims	38,462	37,927	-1.4%
Lost-Time Claim Rate	3.4	3.2	-5.9%
Median Workdays Lost	8	8	0.0%
Duration Rate	104	99	-4.8%



[6] Estimated person-years are calculated from wage and payroll data submitted by employers to the WCB. Estimated person-years for employers who directly bear the cost of their workers' claim are excluded. Lost-time claims for these employers are also excluded unless the WCB has incurred administration or enhanced disability cost.

Table 3.2
Lost-Time Claim Rate By Size[7] of Employer
Alberta: 2001

Size of Employer	Number of Accounts	Lost-Time Claims	Estimated Person-Years	Lost-Time Claim Rate
Less than 10 person-years	99,392	5,272	177,482	3.0%
10 to 19 person-years	6,516	2,962	91,614	3.2%
20 to 39 person-years	3,896	3,834	108,527	3.5%
40 to 99 person-years	2,489	5,637	153,597	3.7%
100 or more person-years	1,650	19,933	647,362	3.1%
Unspecified[8]	2,904	289	0.0	N/A
Total	116,847	37,927	1,178,582	3.2%

[7] Size is measured in terms of estimated person-years worked. One person-year is equivalent to one full-time worker working for one year. Person-years are estimated from payroll information submitted to the WCB by employers.

[8] These are employers with no payroll information or with estimated person-years equal to 0.

4. Injury and Disease Analysis

In this section, characteristics of the injured workers whose claims resulted in wage compensation as well as specific details of the occupational injuries and diseases will be examined[9]. While the focus is at the provincial level, some sector information will be highlighted. Throughout this section, the classifications used are based on the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) standards for categorizing occupational injury and disease information[10].

4.1 Injured Worker Characteristics

The age, gender, job tenure and occupation of injured workers were examined to help determine if workplace health and safety programs should be targeted to specific groups.

Age

The majority of lost-time claims (53%) involved individuals between the ages of 25-44 years (see Table 4.1A). Some 22% of claims were from workers between the ages 15-24 years, although young workers accounted for only 17% of those employed in Alberta[11]. However, only 18% of claims were from workers between the ages of 45-54 years and 8% were 55 years and older while they represented 22% and 11% respectively of those employed in Alberta[12]. Injuries in other age groups were proportionate to their representation among workers in Alberta. A similar distribution was observed in 2000.

Older workers may be injured less frequently perhaps due to their greater levels of experience. Although workers age 45 and older are less likely than young workers to be injured seriously enough to lose work-time, when they are injured they require more time to recover before returning to work. The duration of absence from work due to workplace injury or disease almost doubles from a median of 6 days for young workers to an 11-day median for those 45 years and older. Moreover, about 32% of injuries and diseases to workers aged 45 and older resulted in 31 or more days away from work due to injury or disease as compared to 16% for young workers. Factors that may contribute to longer recuperation periods for workers 45 years and above may include the fact that they sustain especially disabling conditions, such as broken bones more often than young workers do. For example, sprains, strains and tears made up 49% of injuries suffered by workers 45 and older compared to 41% for young workers.

Of the claims from workers between the ages 15-24 years, about 25% of these were in the Retail and Wholesale Services, 22% in Manufacturing and Processing and 18% in the Construction and Construction Trade Services sectors. For the workers between the ages 25-44 years, about 24% were in the Manufacturing and Processing sector and for the 45 years and older, 25% of these were in the Public Administration, Education and Health Services sector.

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[9] Detailed analysis of the pattern among these characteristics and the lost-time claims from 2001 is available.

[10] National standards for categorizing injury and disease and comparable information of other province can be found in the CSA Z795 standard.

[11] Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey.

[12] Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey.

Table 4.1A
Injuries by Age of Injured Worker
Alberta

Age	2000		2001	
	Number of Claims	%	Number of Claims	%
15 - 19 Years	2,525	6.5%	2,694	7.1%
20 - 24 Years	5,572	14.5%	5,530	14.6%
25 - 34 Years	9,874	25.7%	9,666	25.5%
35 - 44 Years	11,113	28.9%	10,363	27.3%
45 - 54 Years	6,500	16.9%	6,757	17.8%
55+ Years	2,805	7.3%	2,842	7.5%
Unspecified	73	0.2%	75	0.2%
Total	38,462	100.0%	37,927	100.0%

Gender

In 2001, male workers accounted for 7 out of 10 lost-time claims (see Table 4.1B), although they represented about 54% of those employed in Alberta. A similar pattern was observed in 2000. Men represented a higher proportion of workers in higher hazard industry sectors. For example, from the total claims in each industry sector, males represented 81% to 94% in Mining and Petroleum Development; Construction and Construction Trade Services; Transportation, Communication and Utilities; and Manufacturing and Processing.

Males accounted for the majority of the lost-time claims in all sectors except for Business, Personal and Professional Services and Public Administration, Education and Health Services sectors, where 55% and 64% respectively of total claims were from females. This pattern may be explained by the fact that these two sectors include many occupations such as nursing (registered, graduate and nurses in training) and sales clerks, traditionally held by females. Of the claims where the injuries were from assault and violent acts by persons, 62% of these were from females.

Table 4.1B
Injuries by Gender of Injured Worker
Alberta

Gender	2000		2001	
	Number of Claims	%	Number of Claims	%
Male	26,790	69.7%	26,070	68.7%
Female	10,980	28.5%	10,968	28.9%
Unspecified	692	1.8%	889	2.4%
Total	38,462	100.0%	37,927	100.0%

Job Tenure

Job tenure measures the length of time that the injured worker had been employed by his or her current employer before the injury or disease. It gives an indication of the amount of job experience of the injured worker.

For about 37% of all claims, job tenure was unspecified. Thus, when examining the percentage distribution and the discussion below, caution should be used when interpreting these data.

Analysis showed that lack of job experience had an association with increased injury at the workplace. The industries where workers with less than one year on the job were most at risk of being injured were Trucking and General Delivery Services, Food and Convenience Stores and Steel and Metal Fabrication.

Of all the claims submitted by young workers (15-24 years), 40% had less than 6 months work experience. A separate analysis[13] that examined job experience, gender and age in relation to the number employed in Alberta, found that adult males (aged 25 to 54) with less than 6 months experience had the highest injury rate followed by males aged 55 and older. Part of the explanation for this may lie in the fact that many seasonal or short-term jobs (e.g., in construction or forestry) are also relatively more hazardous.

[13] Alberta Human Resources and Employment, Data Development and Evaluation, July 2001.

Table 4.1C
Injuries by Job Tenure of Injured Worker
Alberta

Job Tenure	2000		2001	
	Number of Claims	%	Number of Claims	%
Less than 1 month	3,338	8.7%	2,689	7.1%
1 month to less than 6 months	7,281	18.9%	6,008	15.9%
6 months to less than 1 year	3,541	9.2%	3,155	8.3%
1 year or more	15,607	40.6%	11,960	31.5%
Unspecified	8,695	22.6%	14,115	37.2%
Total	38,462	100.0%	37,927	100.0%

Occupation

Workplace injuries and diseases vary with occupation. Occupation is used to describe the kind of work performed by the injured worker irrespective of the kind of industry in which it is done.

In Alberta, the three occupations with the largest number of injuries and diseases with time away from work were truck drivers, non-construction labourers and welders and cutters (see Table 4.1D). Half of the labourers who were injured were between 25-44 years in age and about one-third were between 15-24 years in age. This pattern may be explained in part by the fact that these are traditionally occupations where young and inexperienced workers are often employed. On the other hand 30% of the injured truck drivers were 45 years and older. Workers with the highest number of injuries were mainly males except females represented a higher proportion of injured workers in case of sales clerks (35%) and chefs (30%). This trend is a reflection of the gender composition where males accounted for about 70% of the total lost-time claims.

Sprains, strains and tears[14] were the most common nature of injury for each of the occupations. The notable exceptions were chefs and cooks where open wounds, like cuts and lacerations[15], were more common.

[14] Sprains, strains and tears were due to overexertion, transportation accidents and falls.

[15] Being struck by objects or exposure to harmful substances caused cuts and lacerations.

Table 4.1D
Injuries by Occupation of Injured Worker
Alberta
(from highest percentage to lowest)

Occupations	2000 Number of Claims	%	2001 Number of Claims	%
Truck Drivers	3,221	8.4%	2,413	6.4%
Labourers – Non-Construction	1,971	5.1%	1,636	4.3%
Welders and Cutters	1,245	3.2%	1,124	3.0%
Freight Handlers	964	2.5%	769	2.0%
Chefs and Cooks	912	2.4%	751	2.0%
Sales Clerks – Commodities	1,010	2.6%	743	2.0%
Carpenters	869	2.3%	658	1.7%
Nursing Aides and Orderlies	654	1.7%	611	1.6%
Janitors and Cleaners	731	1.9%	604	1.6%
Shipping and Receiving Clerks	677	1.8%	495	1.3%
Nurses – except Supervisors	591	1.5%	492	1.3%
Labourers – Material Handling	557	1.5%	490	1.3%
Personal Service providers	662	1.7%	480	1.3%
Mechanics – Industrial, Farm Machinery	551	1.4%	466	1.2%
Pipefitting and Plumbing	494	1.3%	463	1.2%
Motor Vehicle Mechanics and Repairers	497	1.3%	428	1.1%
Construction Electricians and Repairers	437	1.1%	375	1.0%
Labourers – Service Sector	558	1.5%	372	1.0%
All other Occupations	21,861	56.8%	24,557	64.7%
Total	38,462	100.0%	37,927	100.0%

4.2 Nature of Injury and Disease

The nature of injury and disease is used to identify the physical characteristics of the injury and disease. In 2001, close to 89% of all the lost-time claims were traumatic injuries and disorders. Of these, the four most common specific traumatic injuries and disorders were sprains, strains and tears (48%); surface wounds and bruises (11%); open wounds (10%) and fractures and dislocations (9%) (see Table 4.2). A similar distribution was observed in 2000.

Males were far more likely than females to experience all of the four types of traumatic injuries and disorders. However, there were wide variations in their distributions. For example, males experienced 65% of all sprains, strains and tears as compared to 33% by females while, for fractures and dislocations, 80% were sustained by males as compared to 18% by females.

The manner in which workers sustain these injuries differed, suggesting that remedies to prevent such injuries need to address a variety of circumstances. A large number of sprains, strains and tears resulted from overexertion while pulling, pushing, lifting and carrying objects, falls and bodily reaction such as bending, reaching and twisting. A large number of work-related wounds (surface and open) resulted from workers being struck by or against an object and struck by slipping hand-held objects. The leading causes of fractures and dislocations were falls or the worker being struck by objects.

Sprains, strains and tears were by far the most common injury in every major sector, ranging from a low of 31% in the Agriculture and Forestry sector to a high of 60% in the Public Administration, Education and Health Services sector. The second leading category in most of the industry sectors was wounds (surface and open). Fractures and dislocations were a common injury in the Mining and Petroleum Development, Agriculture and Forestry and Construction and Construction Trade Services sectors.

Table 4.2
Nature of Injury or Disease
Alberta

Nature of Injury or Disease	2000 Number of Claims	2000 % of Total Number of Claims	2001 Number of Claims	2001 % of Total Number of Claims
Traumatic Injuries and Disorders	34,526	89.8%	33,597	88.5%
Sprains, Strains, Tears	*18,431*	*47.9%*	*18,108*	*47.7%*
Surface Wounds, Bruises	*4,429*	*11.5%*	*4,233*	*11.2%*
Open Wounds	*3,693*	*9.6%*	*3,620*	*9.5%*
Other Traumatic Injuries and Disorders	*3,516*	*9.2%*	*3,341*	*8.8%*
Fractures, Dislocations	*3,447*	*9.0%*	*3,292*	*8.7%*
Burns	*1,010*	*2.6%*	*1,003*	*2.6%*
Systemic Diseases and Disorders	2,326	6.1%	2258	5.9%
Nature - Unknown	1,385	3.5%	1,811	4.8%
Other Diseases, Conditions and Disorders	92	0.2%	106	0.3%
Symptoms, Signs, Ill-Defined Conditions	72	0.2%	106	0.3%
Infectious and Parasitic Diseases	28	0.1%	23	0.1%
Multiple Diseases, Conditions and Disorders	26	0.1%	22	0.1%
Neoplasms, Tumors and Cancer	7	0.0%	4	0.0%
Total	38,462	100.0%	37,927	100.0%

4.3 Part of Body Affected

The trunk was the main injured body part, accounting for about 40% of total claims in 2001 (see Table 4.3) and 48% of the claims in Public Administration, Education and Health Services sector. Injuries to the trunk were mainly sprains, strains and tears affecting the lower back. These injuries often resulted from overexertion or from bodily reaction such as climbing, reaching, twisting and tripping. The next two leading categories were upper extremities (26%) and lower extremities (19%). Body systems like the circulatory, digestive and respiratory systems were least frequently affected.

Injuries and diseases to the upper extremities were mostly sprains, strains and tears, wounds (open and surface) and fractures and dislocations, which were commonly caused by a worker either being struck by or against objects or being caught in or compressed by equipment. A large number of injuries and diseases to lower extremities were sprains, strains and tears which resulted from being struck by or against objects or from bodily reaction such as climbing, twisting and tripping.

Injuries and diseases to the lower extremities accounted for about 19% of injuries at the provincial level, with Agriculture and Forestry (24%) accounting for most of these injuries followed closely by Mining and Petroleum and Construction and Construction Trade Services sectors at 23% each.

Table 4.3
Part of Body Injured
Alberta

Part of Body Injured	2000 Number of Claims	2000 % of Total Number of Claims	2001 Number of Claims	2001 % of Total Number of Claims
Trunk	15,568	40.5%	14,992	39.5%
Back including Spine, Spinal Cord	*10,739*	*27.9%*	*10,178*	*26.8%*
Other Trunk	*4,829*	*12.6%*	*4,814*	*12.7%*
Upper Extremities	9,663	25.1%	9,673	25.6%
Hand(s) and Wrist(s), except Finger(s)	*3,735*	*9.7%*	*3,743*	*9.9%*
Finger(s)	*3,397*	*8.8%*	*3,363*	*8.9%*
Other Upper Extremities	*2,531*	*6.6%*	*2,567*	*6.8%*
Lower Extremities	7,110	18.5%	7,058	18.5%
Leg(s)	*3,332*	*8.7%*	*3,356*	*8.8%*
Ankle(s) & Foot(Feet)-not Toes	*3,269*	*8.5%*	*3,191*	*8.4%*
Other Lower Extremities	*509*	*1.3%*	*511*	*1.3%*
Head	2,607	6.8%	2,617	6.9%
Eye(s)-Optic Nerve,Vision	*1,193*	*3.1%*	*1,158*	*3.1%*
Other Head	*1,414*	*3.7%*	*1,459*	*3.8%*
Multiple Body Parts	2,215	5.7%	2,337	6.2%
Neck	1,048	2.7%	915	2.4%
Body Systems	176	0.5%	209	0.6%
Part of Body - Unknown	63	0.2%	112	0.3%
Other Body Parts	12	0.0%	14	0.0%
Total	38,462	100.0%	37,927	100.0%

4.4 Source of Injury or Disease

The source of injury or disease classification is used to describe the object or substance with which the worker came into contact and, as a result, produced an injury or disease.

The following two were the main sources of injury: persons injured or ill workers[16] (15%) and structures and surfaces[17] (14%) (see Table 4.4). .

All of the sources, except person other than injured worker, caused more injuries or diseases in males than in females. The exception was in instances where the source of injury was persons – other than injured workers (e.g., family members, co-workers or patients), 81% of them were females who were mainly injured by overexertion

The principal source of injuries or diseases differed at the industry sector level:

- The two most common sources of injuries or diseases in the Transportation, Communication and Utilities sector were vehicles for all modes of public, private, work-related and recreational transportation, persons injured or ill workers and structures and surfaces like floors, ground and building systems.

- In Mining and Petroleum Development and Manufacturing and Processing sectors, the leading source was parts and materials which includes machines parts, tool parts and automobile parts as well as building materials, insulating materials and non-structural metal materials.

- Person injured or ill workers accounted for a high number of injuries in the Retail and Wholesale Trade sector, while persons other than the injured worker, which include injuries inflicted by patients, co-workers and family members were the leading source of injury in the Public Administration, Education and Health Services sector. This is likely due to the prevalence of injuries suffered while moving patients in the health industries.

- A leading source of injuries or diseases in the Mining and Petroleum Development, Manufacturing and Processing and Construction and Construction Trade Services sectors was structures and surfaces.

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[16] The source, *persons injured or ill workers*, consists of self-injured persons; bodily conditions; and self-induced bodily motion injuries (mostly stresses and strains); and repetitive motions. This category includes cases resulting from stretching, reaching, twisting, bending, walking, climbing, running or tripping without falling.

[17] *Structures and surfaces*, includes the floor or the ground resulting in sprains, strains and tears, fractures and dislocations and surface wounds and bruises. This contact is usually the result of a fall from height or a fall on the same level.

Table 4.4
Source of Injury and Disease
Alberta

Primary Source of Injury	2000		2001	
	Number of Claims	% of Total Number of Claims	Number of Claims	% of Total Number of Claims
Persons, Plants, Animals and Minerals	8,199	21.3%	8,051	21.2%
Persons-Injured or Ill Workers	*5,623*	*14.6%*	*5,660*	*14.9%*
Persons-Other than Injured Worker	*1,659*	*4.3%*	*1,599*	*4.2%*
Minerals-Metallic or Non-metallic (except fuel)	*189*	*0.5%*	*148*	*0.4%*
Other Persons, Plants, Animals and Minerals	*728*	*1.9%*	*644*	*1.7%*
Structures and Surfaces	5,570	14.5%	5,193	13.7%
Parts and Materials	4,432	11.5%	4,209	11.1%
Containers	4,283	11.2%	4,043	10.7%
Vehicles	2,704	7.0%	2,533	6.7%
Tools, Instruments and Equipment	2,437	6.3%	2,435	6.4%
Hand Tools-Non-Powered	*1,329*	*3.4%*	*1,358*	*3.6%*
Hand Tools-Powered	*383*	*1.0%*	*384*	*1.0%*
Other Tools and Equipment	*725*	*1.9%*	*693*	*1.8%*
Machinery	2,172	5.7%	2,165	5.7%
Other Sources	1,601	4.2%	1,452	3.8%
Furniture and Fixtures	1,205	3.1%	1,186	3.1%
Chemicals and Chemical Products	398	1.0%	385	1.0%
Source-Unknown	5,461	14.2%	6,275	16.6%
Total	38,462	100.0%	37,927	100.0%

4.5 Type of Event

This classification is used to describe the incident or event that occurred at the time of the exposure that directly resulted in the injury or disease. While no single descriptor is adequate for injury analysis, the event classification comes closest to providing an explanation for the occupational injury or disease. However, it is essential that a direct relationship between all descriptors be maintained in order to permit meaningful analysis and interpretation.

Overexertion was the most common cause for lost-time claims in 2001, making up about 25% of total claims (see Table 4.5). Overexertion injuries resulted mainly in sprains, strains and tears injuries which resulted from excessive physical effort in activities such as lifting, pulling, pushing objects and the source of injury was pressurized and non-pressurized containers. This event type mostly resulted in injury to the back. Being struck by or against objects accounted for about 19% of total claims resulting in wounds (open and surface) to the hand and fingers. Falls accounted for 16% of total claims resulting in sprains, strains and tears to the back, ankle and foot.

Although the cause of injuries and diseases at the industry sector level mostly followed the distribution at the provincial level, it differed in certain sectors:

- Overexertion injuries were the most common in all sectors except Agriculture and Forestry and Mining and Petroleum Development, where being struck by objects was the leading cause.

- Falls accounted for about 21% of total claims in the Construction and Construction Trade Services sector and 19% in the Transportation, Communication and Utilities sector as compared with 16% at the provincial level.

- Injuries from struck by or against objects were higher than the provincial level (16%) in Manufacturing and Processing (24%), Retail and Wholesale Services (22%) and Construction and Construction Trade Services (20%).

Table 4.5
Type of Event or Exposure, Alberta

Type of Event or Exposure	2000 Number of Claims	2000 % of Total Number of Claims	2001 Number of Claims	2001 % of Total Number of Claims
Bodily Reaction and Exertion	15,736	40.9%	15,386	40.6%
Overexertion	*9,977*	*25.9%*	*9,595*	*25.3%*
Bodily Reaction	*3,839*	*10.0%*	*3,939*	*10.4%*
Repetitive Motions	*1,507*	*3.9%*	*1,403*	*3.7%*
Other Bodily Reaction and Exertion	*413*	*1.1%*	*449*	*1.2%*
Contact with Objects and Equipment	9,790	25.4%	9,566	25.2%
Struck by Objects	*5,000*	*13.0%*	*4,929*	*13.0%*
Struck against Objects	*2,170*	*5.6%*	*2,154*	*5.7%*
Caught in Objects	*1,979*	*5.1%*	*1,859*	*4.9%*
Rubbed or Abraded	*559*	*1.5%*	*538*	*1.4%*
Other Contact with Objects and Equipment	*82*	*0.2%*	*86*	*0.2%*
Falls	6,043	15.7%	5,931	15.6%
Fall on Same Level	*3,359*	*8.7%*	*3,318*	*8.7%*
Fall to Lower Level	*2,133*	*5.6%*	*2,091*	*5.5%*
Other Falls	*551*	*1.4%*	*522*	*1.4%*
Transportation Accidents	1,829	4.8%	1,658	4.4%
Exposure to Harmful Substances	1,508	3.9%	1,457	3.8%
Assaults and Violent Acts	469	1.2%	431	1.2%
Assaults and Violent Acts by Person	*397*	*1.0%*	*364*	*1.0%*
Other Assaults and Violent Acts	*72*	*0.2%*	*67*	*0.2%*
Fires and Explosions	62	0.2%	74	0.2%
Other Events or Exposure	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Event-Unknown	3,025	7.9%	3,424	9.0%
Total	38,462	100.0%	37,927	100.0%

4.6 Duration of Disability Due to Injury or Disease

Duration of disability[18] is intended to reflect the severity of the effects of occupational injury and disease as reflected by the number of days off work. However, the efforts of employers to introduce modified work programs to integrate injured workers more quickly back into the workforce can have a major impact on workdays lost.

About 37% of total lost-time claims in 2001 resulted in 5 or less days lost from work while about 26% of total claims resulted in 31 or more days lost from work (see Table 4.6). The median number of days lost from work as a result of work-related injury or disease was 8 days in 2001, identical to the median number of days lost from work in 2000 (see Table 3.1). The total number of workdays lost after sustaining certain types of injuries or diseases varied widely. Among the major disabling injuries or diseases (see Table 4.2), the median workdays lost was highest for fractures and dislocations - a median of 29 days. Injuries to the leg resulted in a median of 11 days lost followed by injuries to the trunk (median of 10 days) and injuries to the hand (median of 8 days).

Majority of the sectors followed the provincial distribution regarding duration. Long-term claims (31 or more days) comprised between 20% to 40% of total claims. The number of median days away from work ranged from a median of 18 days for Agriculture and Forestry to a median of 6 days for the Manufacturing and Processing sector (see Table 5.0).

Table 4.6
Duration of Disability Due to Injury or Disease
Alberta

Disability Days	2000		2001	
	Number of Claims	%	Number of Claims	%
1 Day	4,075	10.6%	4,148	10.9%
2 Days	3,267	8.5%	3,433	9.1%
3 - 5 Days	6,709	17.4%	6,451	17.0%
6 - 10 Days	5,467	14.2%	5,360	14.1%
11 - 20 Days	4,800	12.5%	4,657	12.3%
21 - 30 Days	2,566	6.7%	2,395	6.3%
31 Days or more	9,905	25.8%	9,884	26.1%
Unspecified	1,673	4.3%	1,599	4.2%
Total	38,462	100.0%	37,927	100.0%

[18] The duration of disability refers to the length of time, in days, for which the worker receives wage compensation from the WCB.

5. Industry Sector Summary

The risk of occupational injury and disease varies by industry sector. A summary of occupational injury and disease statistics for major industry sector is presented in Table 5.0.

In the sections that follow, each major sector is described in terms of its composition and demographics of the injured workers. The characteristics of their injury and disease and a graph of its historical lost-time claim rate are also provided. This information provides a framework for interpreting injury and disease rates across and within sectors.

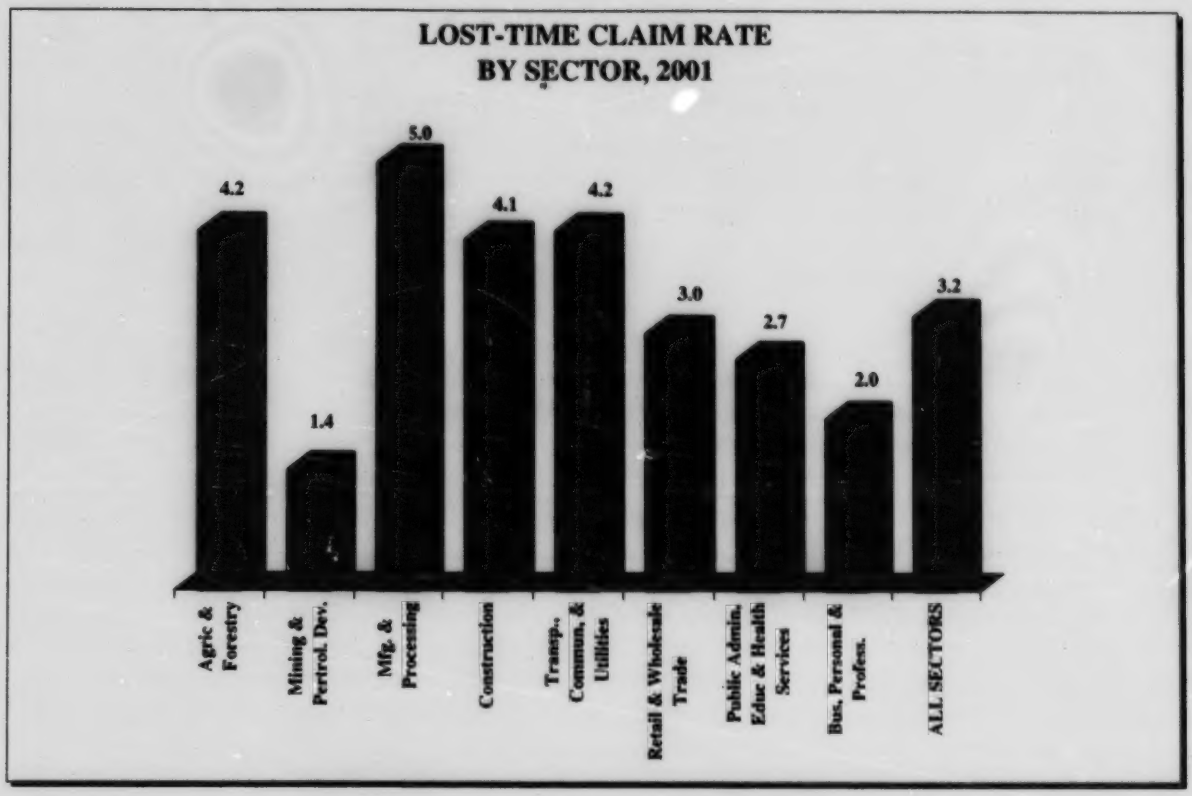
Table 5.0
Injury and Disease Statistics by Major Sector
Alberta

		2000	2001	% Change
Agriculture and Forestry	Estimated Person-years	10,878	11,131	2.3%
	Lost-time Claims	516	467	-9.5%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	4.7	4.2	-10.6%
	Median Workdays Lost	16	18	12.5%
	Duration Rate	199	200	0.5%
Mining and Petroleum Development	Estimated Person-years	71,948	82,395	14.5%
	Lost-time Claims	1,210	1,127	-6.9%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	1.7	1.4	-17.6%
	Median Workdays Lost	16	14	-12.5%
	Duration Rate	72	57	-20.8%
Manufacturing and Processing	Estimated Person-years	164,940	166,154	0.7%
	Lost-time Claims	8,294	8,389	1.1%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	5.0	5.0	0.0%
	Median Workdays Lost	6	6	0.0%
	Duration Rate	109	113	3.7%
Construction and Construction Trade Services	Estimated Person-years	152,428	162,636	6.7%
	Lost-time Claims	6,909	6,682	-3.3%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	4.5	4.1	-8.9%
	Median Workdays Lost	13	14	7.7%
	Duration Rate	192	176	-8.3%

Continued ....

Table 5.0 (cont.)
Injury and Disease Statistics by Major Sector
Alberta

		2000	2001	% Change
Transportation, Communication and Utilities	Estimated Person-years	94,712	99,807	5.4%
	Lost-time Claims	4,310	4,176	-3.1%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	4.6	4.2	-8.7%
	Median Workdays Lost	12	11	-8.3%
	Duration Rate	178	164	-7.9%
Retail and Wholesale Trade Services	Estimated Person-years	214,047	223,418	4.4%
	Lost-time Claims	6,761	6,731	-0.4%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	3.2	3.0	-6.3%
	Median Workdays Lost	7	7	0.0%
	Duration Rate	77	77	0.0%
Public Administration, Education and Health Services	Estimated Person-years	210,224	217,158	3.3%
	Lost-time Claims	6,001	5,953	-0.8%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	2.9	2.7	-6.9%
	Median Workdays Lost	8	7	-12.5%
	Duration Rate	75	72	-4.0%
Business, Personal and Professional Services	Estimated Person-years	203,607	215,883	6.0%
	Lost-time Claims	4,356	4,313	-1.0%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	2.1	2.0	-4.8%
	Median Workdays Lost	8	9	12.5%
	Duration Rate	63	60	-4.8%


LOST-TIME CLAIM RATE
BY SECTOR, 2001
4.2
1.4
5.0
4.1
4.2
3.0
2.7
2.0
3.2
Agric & Forestry
Mining & Petrol. Dev.
Mfg. & Processing
Construction
Transp., Commun. & Utilities
Retail & Wholesale Trade
Public Admin. Educ & Health Services
Bus. Personal & Profess.
ALL SECTORS

5.1 Agriculture and Forestry

Sector Description

The Agriculture and Forestry sector includes vegetable farms, greenhouses and market gardens, mushroom farms, apiaries, commercial hatcheries, feed lots, custom harvesting and baling, timber management and logging and related woodlands operations including the trucking of logs. Secondary processing, such as sawmills and pulp mills, are included in the Manufacturing and Processing sector.

Injury and Disease Summary

In 2001, estimated person-years worked in Agriculture and Forestry sector increased by 2.3% from 2000. The number of person-years worked underestimates employment in this sector since agriculture in Alberta is largely exempt from mandatory coverage with the WCB and the person-years estimates are based only on WCB covered employers. Very few dairy farms, grain farms, and ranches have WCB coverage for their workers. The number of lost-time injuries and diseases decreased by about 9.5%, resulting in a decrease in the lost-time claim rate to 4.2 per 100 person-years worked (see Table 5.1).

The largest category (74%) of injuries and diseases involved males. Although 51% of the claims were from workers between the ages of 25-44 years, close to 24% of the lost-time claims involved young workers (15-24 years). In this sector, 60% of the injured workers had only worked for their current employer for less than six months before the injury or disease. A large number of the lost-time claims were from truck drivers (18%), followed by workers in the horticultural and animal husbandry (17%) and labourers (16%).

Sprains, strains and tears (36%) were the most common injuries in this sector followed by fractures and dislocations (15%). These were caused by either overexertion in lifting objects or by a worker being struck by objects. Injuries to the trunk were the most common (35%) body part injured in this sector. Contact with structures and surfaces was the major source of injury in this sector. More than 40% of the injuries and diseases in this sector resulted in 31 or more days away from work. The median workdays lost due to injuries and diseases and the duration rate for Agriculture and Forestry sector increased by 2 days and 5% respectively in 2001 resulting in one of the highest in the province (see Table 5.0).

Sub-Sector Distribution:

- Lost-time claim rate for Agriculture and Forestry sub-sectors decreased by 9% and 14% respectively (see Table 5.1). Duration rate for both sub-sectors increased by 4% each resulting in one of the highest in the province (see Table 5.0).

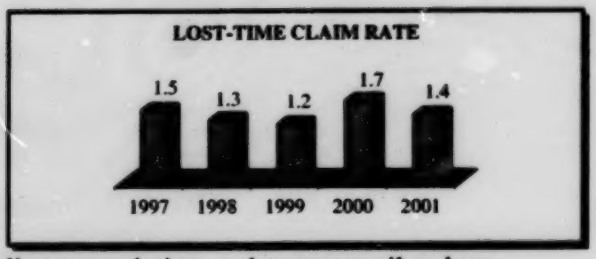
- A high proportion (54%) of the injuries were in Logging and Woodlands Operations, followed by Mixed Farming (12%) industries.

Table 5.1
Injury and Disease Statistics
Agriculture and Forestry Sector

Industry Sector		2000	2001	% Change
Agriculture and Forestry	Estimated Person-years	10,878	11,131	2.3%
	Lost-time Claims	516	467	-9.5%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	4.7	4.2	-10.6%
	Median Workdays Lost	16	18	12.5%
	Duration Rate	199	200	0.5%

Sub-Sector		2000	2001	% Change
Agriculture	Estimated Person-years	5,526	6,164	11.5%
	Lost-time Claims	240	242	0.8%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	4.3	3.9	-9.3%
	Duration Rate	146	151	3.4%
Forestry	Estimated Person-years	5,352	4,967	-7.2%
	Lost-time Claims	276	225	-18.5%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	5.2	4.5	-13.5%
	Duration Rate	254	262	3.1%

5.2 Mining and Petroleum Development



Sector Description

The Mining and Petroleum Development sector includes underground mining, open pit mining, mining and processing of oil sands, oil or gas pipeline transmission, and upstream oil and gas industries such as seismic Exploration, Drilling of Wells, Well Servicing with Service Rigs, Oilfield Downhole Services and Upstream Production. Secondary processing activities, such as Oil Refineries and Petrochemical Manufacturing are included in the Manufacturing and Processing sector.

The composition of this sector was altered in 2000 as compared to previous years. Refining of sand and coal, cement and lime manufacturing including quarrying industries were reclassified into this sector from the Manufacturing and Processing sector. Pressure Cleaning Services were reclassified from this sector into Construction and Construction Trade Services.

Injury and Disease Summary

In 2001, estimated person-years worked increased by 15% and lost-time claims decreased by 7% in this sector (see Table 5.2), resulting in a 18% decrease in the lost-time claim rate, from 1.7 per 100 person-years worked to 1.4 per 100 person-years worked. The Mining and Petroleum Development sector had the lowest lost-time claim rate in Alberta in 2001. Oilfield Downhole Services and Drilling of Oil and Gas Wells had the largest proportion of lost-time claims in the Mining and Petroleum Development sector.

Like the majority of sectors, the greatest proportion (94%) of injuries and diseases involved males. About 39% of the injured workers had worked for their current employer for more than a year before the injury or disease. It should be noted that, in this sector, about half of the injured workers did not report their length of service with their current employer. A significant number of injured workers were involved in Oil and Gas Exploration and Development (42%), Field Production Operations (26%) and Oilfield Downhole Services (13%). Truck drivers (32%) and workers in the rotary well-drilling and related occupations (21%) had the most injuries.

More than 3 out of 10 injuries or diseases resulting in time away from work in this sector were due to sprains, strains and tears, often involving the back. Workers being struck by or against objects or overexertion were the major events that resulted in most of the lost-time claims. The primary sources of injury and disease in this sector were parts and materials, and structures and surfaces. Although, injured workers in this sector had a higher (14) median days away from work due to injury and disease than the provincial average of 8 days, the duration rate of 57 days lost per 100 person-years worked was still well below the provincial value of 99 days lost per 100 person-years worked (see Table 5.0).

Sub-Sector Distribution:

- All of the sub-sectors except Exploration and Well Servicing with Service Rigs saw an increase (5% to 24% range) in their estimated person-years worked.
- The lost-time claim rates for all sub-sectors were below the provincial rate except for Well Servicing with Service Rigs (4.7), Drilling of Oil and Gas Wells (4.1) and Exploration (3.3).
- Duration rate continued to be high for Well Servicing with Service Rigs (243), Drilling of Oil and Gas Wells (205) and Exploration (150) sub-sectors, well above the provincial rate (see Table 5.2).

Table 5.2
Injury and Disease Statistics
Mining and Petroleum Development Sector

Industry Sector		2000	2001	% Change
Mining and Petroleum Development	Estimated Person-years	71,948	82,395	14.5%
	Lost-time Claims	1,210	1,127	-6.9%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	1.7	1.4	-17.6%
	Median Workdays Lost	16	14	-12.5%
	Duration Rate	72	57	-20.8%

Sub-Sector		2000	2001	% Change
Coal Mining	Estimated Person-years	2,851	2,569	-9.9%
	Lost-time Claims	66	47	-28.8%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	2.3	1.8	-21.7%
	Duration Rate	58	17	-70.7%

Continued .....

Table 5.2 (cont.)
Injury and Disease Statistics
Mining and Petroleum Development Sector

Sub-Sector		2000	2001	% Change
Pipeline Cleaning and Transmission	Estimated Person-years	4,332	4,960	14.5%
	Lost-time Claims	21	14	-33.3%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	0.5	0.3	-40.0%
	Duration Rate	14	3	-78.6%
Petroleum Producers	Estimated Person-years	29,385	36,338	23.7%
	Lost-time Claims	90	98	8.9%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	0.3	0.3	0.0%
	Duration Rate	7	8	14.3%
Mine and Process of Tar Sands and Salt	Estimated Person-years	6,561	6,894	5.1%
	Lost-time Claims	31	44	41.9%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	0.5	0.6	20.0%
	Duration Rate	16	7	-56.3%
Exploration	Estimated Person-years	2,807	2,755	-1.9%
	Lost-time Claims	112	90	-19.6%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	4.0	3.3	-17.5%
	Duration Rate	172	150	-12.8%

Continued....

Table 5.2 (cont.)
Injury and Disease Statistics
Mining and Petroleum Development Sector

Sub-Sector		2000	2001	% Change
Drilling of Oil and Gas Wells	Estimated Person-years	5,707	6,012	5.3%
	Lost-time Claims	287	245	-14.6%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	5.0	4.1	-18.0%
	Duration Rate	306	205	-33.0%
Well Servicing with Service Rigs	Estimated Person-years	3,989	3,810	-4.5%
	Lost-time Claims	163	180	10.4%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	4.1	4.7	14.6%
	Duration Rate	185	243	31.4%
Oilfield Downhole Services	Estimated Person-years	11,549	13,460	16.5%
	Lost-time Claims	260	254	-2.3%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	2.3	1.9	-17.4%
	Duration Rate	73	76	4.1%

5.3 Manufacturing and Processing

Sector Description

The Manufacturing and Processing sector includes meat, hides and pelts, clothing and textiles, food and beverage products, wood products, furniture and allied products, printing and publishing, rubber, clay and concrete products, metal foundries and products, instrumentation, fertilizer, petrochemical and plastic products and crude oil refining.

The composition of this sector was altered in 2000 as compared to previous years. Refining of sand and coal, cement and lime manufacturing including quarrying industries were reclassified from this sector to the Mining and Petroleum Development sector. Scrap salvage dealers industry was reclassified into this sector from Construction and Construction Trade Services.

Injury and Disease Summary

Both estimated person-years worked and total lost-time claims increased in 2001 resulting in no change in the lost-time claim rate (5.0 per 100 person-years worked) from last year, making it the highest rate of all the industry sectors (see Table 5.3). This is the only sector that saw no decrease in its lost-time claim rate from 2000.

A significant number (58%) of lost-time claims in this sector involved workers in the 25-44 years age group. Half of the injured workers had been working for a year or more before the injury or disease, suggesting that many experienced workers in this sector incurred lost work-time injuries and diseases. About 36% of the injured workers had been working for 6 months or less. Males accounted for the 81% of the lost-time claims. Welders and flame cutters (19%) experienced the largest number of injuries and diseases in this sector, followed by labourers (12%).

Sprains, strains and tears (42%) were the leading cause of injuries and diseases in this sector. These were caused mainly by either overexertion in lifting or pulling objects or by a worker being struck by or against an object. Injuries to the trunk (36%), followed by fingers (13%), were the most common injured body parts. The leading sources of injury in this sector were parts of machines or materials. About 20% of the lost-time claims resulted in 31 days or more lost followed by 11-20 days (20%). This sector had the lowest median workdays lost (6) due to occupational injury and disease and a duration rate of 113 days per 100 person-years worked.

Sub-Sector Distribution:

- Of all the sub-sectors that had an increase in their lost-time claim rate, the Industrial Equipment sub-sector had the largest increase (17%).
- Manufacture of Fabricated and Primary Steel Products continued to be the largest sub-sector in terms of person-years worked.
- Although the manufacturing sector did not see an increase in its lost-time claim rate,

some of the sub-sectors had a rate that was considerably higher than the provincial rate.

- The sub-sector with the highest claim rate was Furniture and Allied Products (9.5%), followed by Meats, Hides and Pelts (8.7%), Food and Beverage Products (6.4%), Fabricated and Primary Metal Products (6.4%), Wood Products (5.5%), Plastic Products (5.2%) and Foundries (not steel) (4.4%).

- Duration rate was high for Furniture and Allied Products (187), Food and Beverage Products (154), Meats, Hides and Pelts (153), Fabricated and Primary Metal Products (144), Foundries (not steel) (126) and Wood Products (125) sub-sectors (see Table 5.3).

Table 5.3
Injury and Disease Statistics
Manufacturing and Processing Sector

Industry Sector		2000	2001	% Change
Manufacturing and Processing	Estimated Person-years	164,940	166,154	0.7%
	Lost-time Claims	8,294	8,389	1.1%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	5.0	5.0	0.0%
	Median Workdays Lost	6	6	0.0%
	Duration Rate	109	113	3.7%

Sub-Sector		2000	2001	% Change
Meat, Hides and Pelts	Estimated Person-years	12,283	12,772	4.0%
	Lost-time Claims	1,033	1,115	7.9%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	8.4	8.7	3.6%
	Duration Rate	151	153	1.3%

Continued ....

Table 5.3 (cont.)
Injury and Disease Statistics
Manufacturing and Processing Sector

Sub-Sector		2000	2001	% Change
Clothing and Textiles	Estimated Person-years	4,201	4,165	-0.9%
	Lost-time Claims	121	115	-5.0%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	2.9	2.8	-3.4%
	Duration Rate	89	77	-13.5%
Food and Beverage Products	Estimated Person-years	15,354	15,424	0.5%
	Lost-time Claims	1,092	992	-9.2%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	7.1	6.4	-9.9%
	Duration Rate	156	154	-1.3%
Industrial Equipment	Estimated Person-years	7,264	7,974	9.8%
	Lost-time Claims	170	213	25.3%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	2.3	2.7	17.4%
	Duration Rate	60	51	-15.0%
Wood Products	Estimated Person-years	26,334	26,201	-0.5%
	Lost-time Claims	1,460	1,436	-1.6%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	5.5	5.5	0.0%
	Duration Rate	123	125	1.6%
Furniture and Allied Products	Estimated Person-years	1,889	1,971	4.3%
	Lost-time Claims	199	187	-6.0%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	10.5	9.5	-9.5%
	Duration Rate	250	187	-25.2%

Continued ....

Table 5.3 (cont.)
Injury and Disease Statistics
Manufacturing and Processing Sector

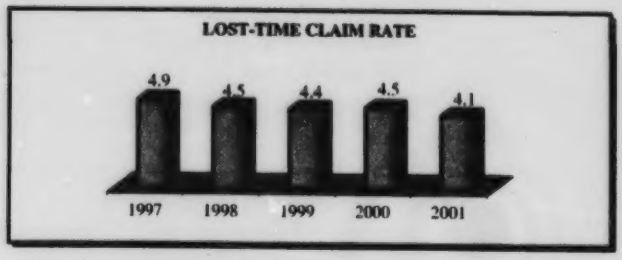
Sub-Sector		2000	2001	% Change
Printing and Publishing	Estimated Person-years	12,984	12,519	-3.6%
	Lost-time Claims	232	209	-9.9%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	1.8	1.7	-5.6%
	Duration Rate	41	38	-7.3%
Foundries (not Steel), Rubber and Nonmetallic Minerals	Estimated Person-years	7,148	6,713	-6.1%
	Lost-time Claims	348	297	-14.7%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	4.9	4.4	-10.2%
	Duration Rate	145	126	-13.1%
Fabricated and Primary Metal (esp. Steel) Products	Estimated Person-years	46,470	49,810	7.2%
	Lost-time Claims	2,912	3,192	9.6%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	6.3	6.4	1.6%
	Duration Rate	133	144	8.3%

Continued ....

Table 5.3 (cont.)
Injury and Disease Statistics
Manufacturing and Processing Sector

Sub-Sector		2000	2001	% Change
Gases, Fertilizer and	Estimated Person-years	10,018	9,451	-5.7%
Petrochemical Products -	Lost-time Claims	94	59	-37.2%
Refining and Manufacturing	Lost-time Claim Rate	0.9	0.6	-33.3%
	Duration Rate	21	20	-4.8%
Plastic Products	Estimated Person-years	4,450	4,430	-0.4%
	Lost-time Claims	245	232	-5.3%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	5.5	5.2	-5.5%
	Duration Rate	114	88	-22.8%

5.4 Construction and Construction Trade Services



Sector Description

The Construction and Construction Trade Services sector includes residential construction, industrial construction, road building, industrial labour, and specialized construction trades such as roofing, plumbing, painting, electrical wiring, and bricklaying and masonry.

The composition of this sector was altered in 2000 as compared to previous years. Pressure cleaning services industry was reclassified into this sector from Mining and Petroleum Development sector. The Scrap Salvage Dealers industry was reclassified from this sector into Manufacturing and Processing.

Injury and Disease Summary

Estimated person-years worked in 2001 increased by 7% (see Table 5.4) from 2000. Total lost-time claims decreased by 3%, resulting in a decrease in the lost-time claim rate of about 9%, from 4.5 to 4.1 per 100 person-years worked.

In this sector, a significant number (92%) of lost-time claims involved males. About 57% of the injured workers in this sector had worked for their current employer for less than 6 months before the injury or disease. A significant number (22%) of injured workers were young workers. About 12% of the injured workers were carpenters and another 12% were labourers.

Once again, sprains, strains and tears were the most common (44%) injuries in this sector. The cause of injury or exposures that resulted in lost-time claims was either overexertion (from lifting or pushing objects) or a worker was struck by an object or against an object. The body part that was injured the most was the trunk (37%), of which, 13% of the injuries were to the back. A significant number (36%) of injuries or diseases in this sector resulted in 31 or more days away from work. This sector's duration rate decreased by 8%, making it the second highest in the province. The 2001 duration rate of 176 days per 100 person-years worked was higher than the provincial value. The median workdays lost due to injuries and diseases of 14 days was tied for the second highest of all the sectors.

Sub-Sector Distribution:

- All the sub-sectors reported a growth in estimated person-years worked with Masonry and Roofers with the largest increase of 17% each.

- All sub-sectors, except the Scaffolders had a higher duration rate than the provincial average. Especially high duration rates were seen with Roofers (357), Masonry (327), Drywall and Residential Construction (226), Industrial Construction (212) and Roadbuilders (182) sub-sectors (see Table 5.4).

- Although all sub-sectors showed a decrease in lost-time claim rate from 2000, the rates reported for 2001 remained high. Except for Scaffolders, all sub-sectors had a lost-time

claim rate higher than the provincial average. Masonry had the highest lost-time claim rate of 10.3 per 100 person-years worked, followed by Roofers (7.6), Glaziers (5.8), Drywall and Residential Construction (4.9) and Industrial Construction (4.7).

Table 5.4
Injury and Disease Statistics
Construction and Construction Trade Services Sector

Industry Sector		2000	2001	% Change
Construction and Construction Trade Services	Estimated Person-years	152,428	162,636	6.7%
	Lost-time Claims	6,909	6,682	-3.3%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	4.5	4.1	-8.9%
	Median Workdays Lost	13	14	7.7%
	Duration Rate	192	176	-8.3%

Sub-Sector		2000	2001	% Change
Drywall and Residential Construction	Estimated Person-years	32,153	34,124	6.1%
	Lost-time Claims	1,730	1,673	-3.3%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	5.4	4.9	-9.3%
	Duration Rate	247	226	-8.5%
Glaziers	Estimated Person-years	6,026	6,358	5.5%
	Lost-time Claims	360	370	2.8%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	6.0	5.8	-3.3%
	Duration Rate	179	155	-13.4%

Continued ....

Table 5.4 (cont.)
Injury and Disease Statistics
Construction and Construction Trade Services Sector

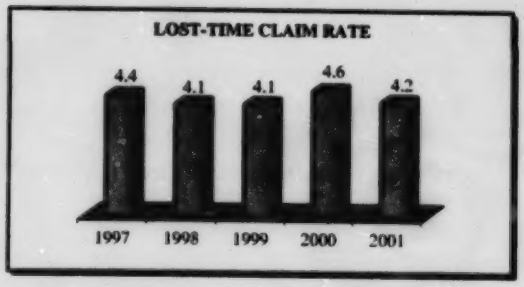
Sub-Sector		2000	2001	% Change
Industrial Construction	Estimated Person-years	31,128	33,578	7.9%
	Lost-time Claims	1,673	1,570	-6.2%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	5.4	4.7	-13.0%
	Duration Rate	225	212	-5.8%
Masonry	Estimated Person-years	843	986	17.0%
	Lost-time Claims	86	102	18.6%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	10.2	10.3	1.0%
	Duration Rate	392	327	-16.6%
Mechanical and Electrical Insulation	Estimated Person-years	26,238	28,367	8.1%
	Lost-time Claims	1,039	1,030	-0.9%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	4.0	3.6	-10.0%
	Duration Rate	118	107	-9.3%
Roadbuilders	Estimated Person-years	24,985	26,709	6.9%
	Lost-time Claims	989	874	-11.6%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	4.0	3.3	-17.5%
	Duration Rate	207	182	-12.1%

Continued ...

Table 5.4 (cont.)
Injury and Disease Statistics
Construction and Construction Trade Services Sector

Sub-Sector		2000	2001	% Change
Roofers	Estimated Person-years	3,492	4,077	16.8%
	Lost-time Claims	277	310	11.9%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	7.9	7.6	-3.8%
	Duration Rate	447	357	-20.1%
Scaffolders	Estimated Person-years	1,591	1624	2.1%
	Lost-time Claims	29	24	-17.2%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	1.8	1.5	-16.7%
	Duration Rate	70	70	0.0%

5.5 Transportation, Communication and Utilities



Sector Description

The Transportation, Communication and Utilities sector consists of various modes of transportation (air, rail, truck, bus, taxi cab and limousine services), assorted methods of communication and entertainment (radio, television, movies, live theatre, telecommunications, cable vision), and utilities (electricity, natural gas, and garbage collection, recycling and disposal).

Injury and Disease Summary

Estimated person-years worked increased and lost-time claims decreased in 2001 in the Transportation, Communication and Utilities sector (see Table 5.5), resulting in a decrease in the lost-time claim rate to 4.2 per 100 person-years worked.

Workers aged 25-44 years made up a large proportion of the lost-time claims in this sector. About 60% of the workers had at least one year of service with their employer when they sustained their injury or disease. Truck drivers led all occupations, accounting for 51% of the total lost-time claims.

Sprains, strains and tears were the leading (52%) nature of injury or disease in this sector. The trunk (44%) was the body part most affected by disabling work incidents in this sector followed by injuries to ankles and feet. No one source of injury or disease stood out, although, the following accounted for 14-16% of the total lost-time claims: containers, persons – injured workers and structures and surfaces. Overexertion while manoeuvring objects was the main disabling events or exposures with 25% of the total claims. The sector's median workdays lost due to injury and disease of 11 days and a duration rate of 164 days per 100 person-years worked was among the highest in the province, exceeded by only the Agriculture and Forestry and Construction sectors (see Table 5.0).

Sub-Sector Distribution:

- The Telecommunications, Closed Circuit TV and Cablevision sub-sector had the largest increase (17.3%) in estimated person-years worked.
- The Garbage Collection, Recycle, Disposal and Towing Vehicles sub-sector had the highest lost-time claim rate of 7.6 per 100 person-years worked followed by Trucking Services with a rate of 6.3 per 100 person-years worked.
- Utility–Natural Gas sub-sector saw the largest (21%) increase in the lost-time claim rate followed by Garbage Collection, Recycle, Disposal and Towing Vehicles (6%).

- Within this sector, some sub-sectors had higher duration rates than the provincial value of 99 per 100 person-years worked. Trucking Services (283) had the highest duration rate followed by Garbage Collection, Recycling, Disposal (241), Towing Vehicles and Bus, Taxi and Limousine Services (151) and Air Services (101) sub-sectors (see Table 5.5).

Table 5.5
Injury and Disease Statistics
Transportation, Communication & Utilities Sector

Industry Sector		2000	2001	% Change
Transportation, Communication and Utilities	Estimated Person-years	94,712	99,807	5.4%
	Lost-time Claims	4,310	4,176	-3.1%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	4.6	4.2	-8.7%
	Median Workdays Lost	12	11	-8.3%
	Duration Rate	178	164	-7.9%

Sub-Sector		2000	2001	% Change
Air Services	Estimated Person-years	10,059	9,850	-2.1%
	Lost-time Claims	454	395	-13.0%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	4.5	4.0	-11.1%
	Duration Rate	123	101	-17.9%
Rail Services	Estimated Person-years	8,117	7,907	-2.6%
	Lost-time Claims	200	184	-8.0%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	2.5	2.3	-8.0%
	Duration Rate	112	89	-20.5%

Continued ...

Table 5.5 (cont.)
Injury and Disease Statistics
Transportation, Communication & Utilities Sector

Sub-Sector		2000	2001	% Change
Trucking Services	Estimated Person-years	39,506	41,327	4.6%
	Lost-time Claims	2,705	2,598	-4.0%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	6.8	6.3	-7.4%
	Duration Rate	307	283	-7.8%
Bus,Taxi and Limousine Services	Estimated Person-years	4,824	4,615	-4.3%
	Lost-time Claims	212	177	-16.5%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	4.4	3.8	-13.6%
	Duration Rate	171	151	-11.7%
Radio, TV, Movies, Live Theatre and Ballet	Estimated Person-years	3,953	4,150	5.0%
	Lost-time Claims	63	56	-11.1%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	1.6	1.3	-18.8%
	Duration Rate	41	78	90.2%
Telecommunications, Closed Circuit TV and Cablevision	Estimated Person-years	13,001	15,248	17.3%
	Lost-time Claims	116	115	-0.9%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	0.9	0.8	-11.1%
	Duration Rate	26	22	-15.4%

Continued ....

Table 5.5 (cont.)
Injury and Disease Statistics
Transportation, Communication & Utilities Sector

Sub-Sector		2000	2001	% Change
Utility-Electric	Estimated Person-years	6,569	7,241	10.2%
	Lost-time Claims	65	67	3.1%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	1.0	0.9	-10.0%
	Duration Rate	20	14	-30.0%
Utility-Natural Gas	Estimated Person-years	2,703	2,885	6.7%
	Lost-time Claims	37	49	32.4%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	1.4	1.7	21.4%
	Duration Rate	13	50	284.6%
Garbage collection, Recycle, Disposal and Towing Vehicles	Estimated Person-years	2,981	3,239	8.7%
	Lost-time Claims	214	246	15.0%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	7.2	7.6	5.6%
	Duration Rate	213	241	13.1%

5.6 Retail and Wholesale Trade Services

Sector Description

The Retail and Wholesale Trade Services sector includes wholesale operations, food and beverage stores, department stores, furniture and appliance stores, home improvement centres, the sale and service of automobiles, trailers, industrial and farm equipment, and office and medical equipment.

Injury and Disease Summary

Retail and Wholesale Trade Services is the largest sector in Alberta in terms of person-years worked (see Table 5.0). It's estimated person-years worked made up about 19% of the total provincial person-years worked in 2001. The 2001 lost-time claim rate of 3.0 per 100 person-years worked was 6% lower for this sector than in 2000 (see Table 5.6). The 2001 lost-time claim rate for this sector was among the lowest in the province.

Males accounted for 63% of the injured workers in 2001 in this sector. Although half the workers were 25-44 years of age, young workers (15-24) represented 30% of the injured workers. Half the injured workers had worked for at least one year with their current employer before the injury or disease. Commodity sales clerks contributed a significant number (16%) of lost-time claims, followed by truck drivers, cashiers and tellers and labourers.

Sprains, strains and tears were the leading (51%) nature of injury category. The trunk was the most common (42%) body part injured. Containers including boxes and crates were the leading (20%) source of injury or disease. The main cause of injury or disease were overexertion (30%) (from lifting or pushing or pulling objects) and struck by objects (15%). The median workdays lost of 7 days and the duration rate of 77 days per 100 person-years worked were among the lowest in the province and lower than the provincial averages.

Sub-Sector Distribution:

- All sub-sectors saw their lost-time claim rates decrease or stay the same in 2001 except Food and Beverage Stores sub-sector. Lost-time claim rate was 5.9 per 100 person-years worked for Food and Beverage Stores. Other sub-sectors with high lost-time claim rate were Yards and Home Improvement Centres (4.6) and Automobiles and Sports Vehicles (3.7).

- Duration rates for all sub-sectors were at or below the provincial average, except the Food and Beverage Stores (137) and Automobiles, Sport Vehicles, Small Engines and Trailers (121) (see Table 5.6). Duration rate for Yards and Home Improvement (88) showed a marked decrease by 33%.

Table 5.6
Injury and Disease Statistics
Retail and Wholesale Trade Services Sector

Industry Sector		2000	2001	% Change
Retail and Wholesale Trade Services	Estimated Person-years	214,047	223,418	4.4%
	Lost-time Claims	6,761	6,731	-0.4%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	3.2	3.0	-6.3%
	Median Workdays Lost	7	7	0.0%
	Duration Rate	77	77	0.0%

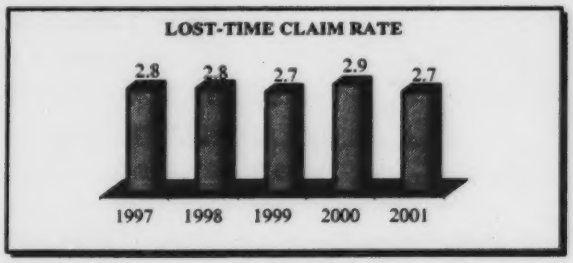
Industry Sector		2000	2001	% Change
Wholesale Operations	Estimated Person-years	20,903	21,296	1.9%
	Lost-time Claims	533	415	-22.1%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	2.5	1.9	-24.0%
	Duration Rate	59	59	0.0%
Food and Beverage Stores	Estimated Person-years	45,426	45,030	-0.9%
	Lost-time Claims	2,546	2,654	4.2%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	5.6	5.9	5.4%
	Duration Rate	129	137	6.2%
Industrial and Farm Equipment and Products	Estimated Person-years	34,988	37,856	8.2%
	Lost-time Claims	911	881	-3.3%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	2.6	2.3	-11.5%
	Duration Rate	67	64	-4.5%

Continued ....

Table 5.6 (cont.)
Injury and Disease Statistics
Retail and Wholesale Trade Services Sector

Industry Sector		2000	2001	% Change
Automobiles, Sport Vehicles, Small Engines and Trailers	Estimated Person-years	19,329	18,597	-3.8%
	Lost-time Claims	773	694	-10.2%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	4.0	3.7	-7.5%
	Duration Rate	105	121	15.2%
Office, Medical and Entertainment Equipment	Estimated Person-years	15,625	18,030	15.4%
	Lost-time Claims	109	97	-11.0%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	0.7	0.5	-28.6%
	Duration Rate	13	12	-7.7%
Yards and Home Improvement Centres	Estimated Person-years	8,036	8,958	11.5%
	Lost-time Claims	395	409	3.5%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	4.9	4.6	-6.1%
	Duration Rate	132	88	-33.3%
Other Retail Services	Estimated Person-years	69,173	73,652	5.6%
	Lost-time Claims	1,486	1,581	5.8%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	2.1	2.1	0.0%
	Duration Rate	53	54	1.9%

5.7 Public Administration, Education and Health Services



Sector Description

Public Administration includes the Government of Alberta and its agencies, and all forms of local government (including cities, towns, villages and municipal districts). Education services include universities, colleges, business schools, driving schools, kindergartens, museums and libraries. Health services include health care centres, long term care facilities and home support services.

The composition of this sector was somewhat altered in 2000 as compared with previous years. Health units were reclassified into this sector from the sector listed as Business, Personal and Professional Services.

Injury and Disease Summary

Based on person-years worked, Public Administration, Education and Health Services is the second largest sector in Alberta after Retail and Wholesale Trade. Estimated person-years worked increased and total lost-time claims decreased in 2001 in Public Administration, Education and Health Services (see Table 5.7), resulting in a 7% decrease in the lost-time claim rate. The 2001 lost-time claim rate of 2.7 per 100 person-years worked continued to be among the lowest in the province (see Table 5.0).

This is one of two sectors where 64% of lost-time claims involved females. Like all other sectors, 50% of the injured workers were between 25-44 years. About 4 out of 5 workers had at least a year of service with their employer when they sustained their injury or disease. A large number (12%) of the claims were from nurses (registered, graduate and nurses in training).

Sprains, strains and tears injuries made up the largest (64%) proportion of the lost-time claims. The trunk (48%) was the most common body part injured. About 36% of all the injuries and diseases in this sector were caused by overexertion (from manoeuvring objects) and falling on the same level (10%). The primary source of injury or disease in this sector was persons other than the injured worker followed by bodily position or motion of the injured worker. While the median (7) workdays lost due to injury and disease and the duration rate (72) for this sector were below the provincial figures, *caution should be used when comparing the duration rate in this sector with the duration rates for other sectors. Due to a special arrangement involving provincial government employees, not all disability days are recorded by the WCB and, therefore, the duration rate for this sector may be underestimated.*

Sub-Sector Distribution:

- Estimated person-years worked increased in all the sub-sectors except Other Public Administration in 2001.

- Health and Social Services, Villages, Towns and Cities and Health Care Centres sub-sectors had lost-time claim rates, which exceeded both the sector and provincial rates.

The Alberta Government Public Service sub-sector had the lowest lost-time claim rate in this sector.

- The duration rate of all the sub-sectors except Health and Social Services (132) were below the provincial rate.

Table 5.7
Injury and Disease Statistics
Public Administration, Education and Health Services Sector

Industry Sector		2000	2001	% Change
Public Administration, Education and Health Services	Estimated Person-years	210,224	217,158	3.3%
	Lost-time Claims	6,001	5,953	-0.8%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	2.9	2.7	-6.9%
	Median Workdays Lost	8	7	-12.5%
	Duration Rate	75	72	-4.0%

Sub-Sector		2000	2001	% Change
Alberta Government Public Service	Estimated Person-years	27,886	29,308	5.1%
	Lost-time Claims	250	270	8.0%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	0.9	0.9	0.0%
	Duration Rate	22	29	31.8%
Health Care Centres	Estimated Person-years	50,404	53,602	6.3%
	Lost-time Claims	1,812	1,960	8.2%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	3.6	3.7	2.8%
	Duration Rate	98	92	-6.1%

Continued .....

Table 5.7 (cont.)
Injury and Disease Statistics
Public Administration, Education and Health Services Sector

Industry Sector		2000	2001	% Change
Health and Social Services	Estimated Person-years	35,037	36,825	5.1%
	Lost-time Claims	1,623	1,546	-4.7%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	4.6	4.2	-8.7%
	Duration Rate	140	132	-5.7%
Villages, Towns and Cities	Estimated Person-years	30,105	30,980	2.9%
	Lost-time Claims	1,317	1,187	-9.9%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	4.4	3.8	-13.6%
	Duration Rate	92	84	-8.7%
Other Public Administration	Estimated Person-years	6,961	6,500	-6.6%
	Lost-time Claims	189	157	-16.9%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	2.7	2.4	-11.1%
	Duration Rate	71	77	8.5%
Education, Museums and Libraries	Estimated Person-years	59,832	59,943	0.2%
	Lost-time Claims	810	833	2.8%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	1.4	1.4	0.0%
	Duration Rate	36	31	-13.9%

5.8 Business, Personal and Professional Services

Sector Description

The Business, Personal and Professional Services sector includes building and grounds maintenance; financial, real estate and insurance services; office labour services; engineering, architectural and research services; restaurants, motels, hotels and recreation; security services; seniors lodges; and health units, private health and social services and veterinary services.

The composition of this sector was altered somewhat in 2000 as compared with previous years, as Health Units was reclassified into Public Administration, Education and Health Services sector.

Injury and Disease Summary

Based on person-years worked, Business, Personal and Professional Services is the third largest sector in Alberta after Retail and Wholesale Trade; and Public Administration, Education and Health Services (see Table 5.0). The total lost-time claims decreased by 1% resulting in a lost-time claim rate of 2.0 per 100 person-years worked, the lowest from all the sectors in the province, in 2001 (see Table 5.8).

This sector is one of two where 55% of the lost-time claims involved females. This sector had a larger proportion (31%) of lost-time claims involving young workers (15-24 years) compared to 22% at the provincial level. About 41% of the claims were from workers who had less than 6 months of services with their current employer before their injury or disease. High proportions (22%) of lost-time claims were from chefs and cooks followed by janitors, charworkers and cleaners (10%). The sector's median workdays lost of 9 days was slightly higher than the provincial rate and a duration rate of 60 days per 100 person-years worked was below the provincial average.

Sub-Sector Distribution:

- The Restaurants, Hotels and Recreation Services continued to be the largest sub-sector in terms of person-years worked. In 2001, it accounted for about 47% of total person-years worked in this sector. Estimated person-years worked increased in Engineering, Architectural, Designing and Research services; and Private Health Services and Seniors Accommodations sub-sectors by 33% and 21% respectively.

- The lost-time claim rates and duration rates of all sub-sectors were near or below the provincial rate, with the exception of the Personal Services-Maintenance sub-sector (lost-time claim rate of 3.6 per 100 person-years worked and duration rate of 170 per 100 person years worked) (see table 5.8).

Table 5.8
Injury and Disease Statistics
Business, Personal and Professional Services Sector

Industry Sector		2000	2001	% Change
Business, Personal and Professional Services	Estimated Person-years	203,607	215,883	6.0%
	Lost-time Claims	4,356	4,313	-1.0%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	2.1	2.0	-4.8%
	Median Workdays Lost	8	9	12.5%
	Duration Rate	63	60	-4.8%

Sub-Sector		2000	2001	% Change
Animal Care Services	Estimated Person-years	1,432	1646	14.9%
	Lost-time Claims	34	41	20.6%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	2.4	2.5	4.2%
	Duration Rate	35	46	31.4%
Private Health Services and Seniors Accommodations	Estimated Person-years	9,570	11,557	20.8%
	Lost-time Claims	207	203	-1.9%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	2.2	1.8	-18.2%
	Duration Rate	68	51	-25.0%
Building and Grounds Maintenance	Estimated Person-years	12,338	12,001	-2.7%
	Lost-time Claims	282	231	-18.1%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	2.3	1.9	-17.4%
	Duration Rate	75	58	-22.7%

Continued ....

Table 5.8 (cont.)
Injury and Disease Statistics
Business, Personal and Professional Services Sector

Industry Sector		2000	2001	% Change
Personal Services-Maintenance	Estimated Person-years	10,797	11,454	6.1%
	Lost-time Claims	413	407	-1.5%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	3.8	3.6	-5.3%
	Duration Rate	173	170	-1.7%
Engineering, Architectural, Designing and Research Services	Estimated Person-years	23,510	31,145	32.5%
	Lost-time Claims	87	93	6.9%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	0.4	0.3	-25.0%
	Duration Rate	9	8	-11.1%
Restaurants, Hotels and Recreation Services	Estimated Person-years	100,355	102,205	1.8%
	Lost-time Claims	2,725	2,707	-0.7%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	2.7	2.6	-3.7%
	Duration Rate	70	70	0.0%
Other Personal Services	Estimated Person-years	10,312	10,170	-1.4%
	Lost-time Claims	189	187	-1.1%
	Lost-time Claim Rate	1.8	1.8	0.0%
	Duration Rate	58	69	19.0%

6. WCB Accepted Occupational Fatalities

A WCB accepted occupational fatality is defined as the death of a worker resulting from a work-related incident or exposure, which has been accepted by the WCB for compensation. Some of the fatalities accepted in a particular year occurred in prior years (see Table 6.1B). This section provides a description of the occupational fatalities as well as the provincial fatality rates and rates in the major industry sectors.

6.1 Description of Fatalities Accepted by the WCB

In 2001 and 2000, the WCB accepted 118 occupational fatalities for compensation in each of the years. This is the second highest number of fatalities accepted over the last five years. About 32% of the fatalities accepted in 2001 were workplace incidents as a result of injuries sustained at a workplace compared to 47% in 2000.

AHRE classifies occupational fatalities into three general event types:

- motor vehicle incidents;
- workplace incidents; and
- occupational disease.

OHS Officers investigate only workplace incidents – local police authorities normally investigate motor vehicle incidents and the worker's physician reports deaths due to occupational disease.

Each of the type of fatality is described in more detail below.

Motor Vehicle Incidents

Motor vehicle incidents typically involve non-industrial vehicles operating on public roads in which the fatally injured worker was either the driver or a passenger. This type of occupational fatality also includes cases involving aircraft crashes, train crashes, helicopter crashes and water vehicle crashes. About 34% of the fatalities accepted in 2001 were motor vehicle incidents, an increase of about 33% from 2000 (see Table 6.1A).

Workplace Incidents

Workplace incidents consist of cases in which the worker dies at a work site or as a result of injuries sustained at a work site. This is the type of fatality that AHRE typically investigates. The four most frequent types of fatal accidents investigated by OHS Officer involve: being struck by an object; being caught in or between objects; industrial vehicle incidents; and falling from elevation. The proportion of workplace incidents accepted by the WCB decreased to 32% in 2001 from 47% in 2000 (see Table.6.1A).

Occupational Disease

Occupational disease fatalities consist mostly of recognised occupational disease, that is, disease known to be primarily or exclusively work-related (e.g., asbestosis, black lung disease). Occupational diseases are frequently diagnosed many years after the initial or crucial exposure to the toxic substance, and in such cases it is very difficult to determine when the fatal exposure occurred. *The occupational disease category, therefore, should not be interpreted to reflect present work site hazardous conditions or exposures.*

This category also includes heart attacks suffered on the job. In 2001, 34% of the total fatalities accepted, resulted from occupational disease, increasing from 28% in 2000 (see Table 6.1A). The most frequent occupational disease fatalities accepted by the WCB in recent years relate to exposure to asbestos fibres and in 2001, these fatalities represented 73% of the total occupational disease fatalities. Exposure to asbestos can result in cancer and related obstructive diseases of the lungs and respiratory system, such as, asbestosis and mesothelioma (see Table 6.1B).

Table 6.1A
Description of Fatalities Accepted
By the Workers Compensation Board
Alberta: 1992-2001

	Motor Vehicle Incident		Workplace Incident		Occupational Disease		Total	
Year	Number of Fatalities	%	Number of Fatalities	%	Number of Fatalities	%	Number of Fatalities	%
1992	29	29.3%	43	43.4%	27	27.3%	99	100.0%
1993	28	36.4%	30	39.0%	19	24.7%	77	100.0%
1994	30	40.5%	28	37.8%	16	21.6%	74	100.0%
1995	42	45.2%	29	31.2%	22	23.7%	93	100.0%
1996	33	36.3%	34	37.4%	24	26.4%	91	100.0%
1997	49	40.8%	37	30.8%	34	28.3%	120	100.0%
1998	37	35.2%	34	32.4%	34	32.4%	105	100.0%
1999	33	28.9%	43	37.7%	38	33.3%	114	100.0%
2000	30	25.4%	55	46.6%	33	28.0%	118	100.0%
2001	40	33.9%	38	32.2%	40	33.9%	118	100.0%
Total	351	34.8%	371	36.8%	287	28.4%	1009	100.0%

Table 6.1B
Fatal Claims Accepted by Causes of Disease
Alberta: 1997-2001

	Year Accepted					Total Accepted	
Causes	**1997**	**1998**	**1999**	**2000**	**2001**	**Total**	**Percent**
Asbestos	24	26	31	20	29	130	72.6%
Silica (Gravel Dust)		1	1	4	4	10	5.6%
Coal Dust	2		1	1	2	6	3.4%
Other dust	1	3	1	3		8	4.4%
Chemicals	1		1	2	2	6	3.4%
Radiation	1		1	1	1	4	2.2%
Heart-related Diseases	4	4	2	1		11	6.1%
Infectious Diseases				1	2	3	1.7%
Lung-related Diseases	1					1	0.6%
Total	34	34	38	33	40	179	100.0%

6.2 Occupational Fatality Rates in Industry Sectors

The estimated occupational fatality rate for the province in 2001 was 99 deaths per million person-years worked, a decrease of 5% from 2000 (see Table 6.2A). *It should be noted that, unlike the lost-time claim rate, the fatality rate is not a reliable indicator of the present risk of work-related injury and disease since conditions that resulted in the exposure or disease may not be present now.*

Like injury rates, fatality rates vary across industry sectors due to the different types of work activity performed in the various sectors. In order to reduce year-to-year variations, the period 1992 to 2001 was used to calculate the fatality rates for a sector by dividing the total number of accepted fatalities in a sector for the period 1992 to 2001 by the total number of person-years worked during that period. The fatality rates for the period considered, was greatest in the Agriculture and Forestry sector (see Table 6.2B). The estimated rate of 307 per million person-years worked is about 3.1 times the provincial rate of 99 per million person-years worked for the same period. Construction and Construction Trade Services; Transportation, Communication and Utilities; and Mining and Petroleum Development sectors all had a higher risk of occupational fatality rate than the provincial fatality rate. Fatality rates were lower than or the same as the provincial rate in the relatively less hazardous industry sectors of Public Administration, Education and Health Services; Retail and Wholesale Trade

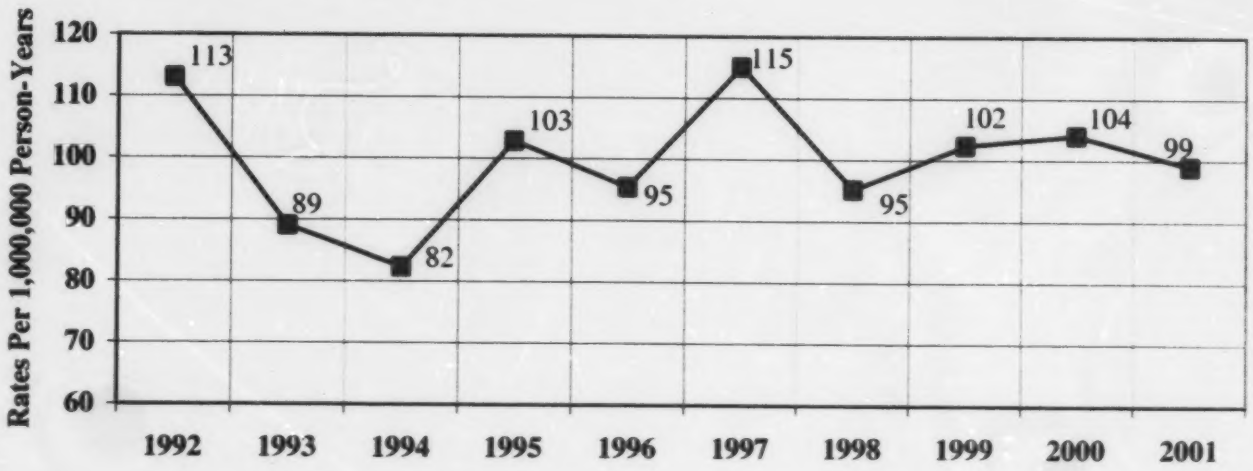
Services; Business, Personal and Professional Services; and Manufacturing and Processing sector (see Table 6.2B).

Caution should be used in considering the fatality rate for Agriculture and Forestry since most of the industries in this sector do not have workers compensation coverage, resulting in the under-estimation of the person-years worked and accepted fatalities. The high fatality rate may imply the sector is more hazardous, when in fact it may not be. Fatality rates reported might be more reliable for sectors where a majority of the industries have workers compensation coverage since the data only include these workers.

Table 6.2A
Occupational Fatality Rates[19]
Alberta: 1992-2001

Year	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	Total
Accepted Fatalities	99	77	74	93	91	120	105	114	118	118	1009
Estimated Fatality Rate	113	89	82	103	95	115	95	102	104	99	100

Occupational Fatality Rates
Alberta: 1992-2001

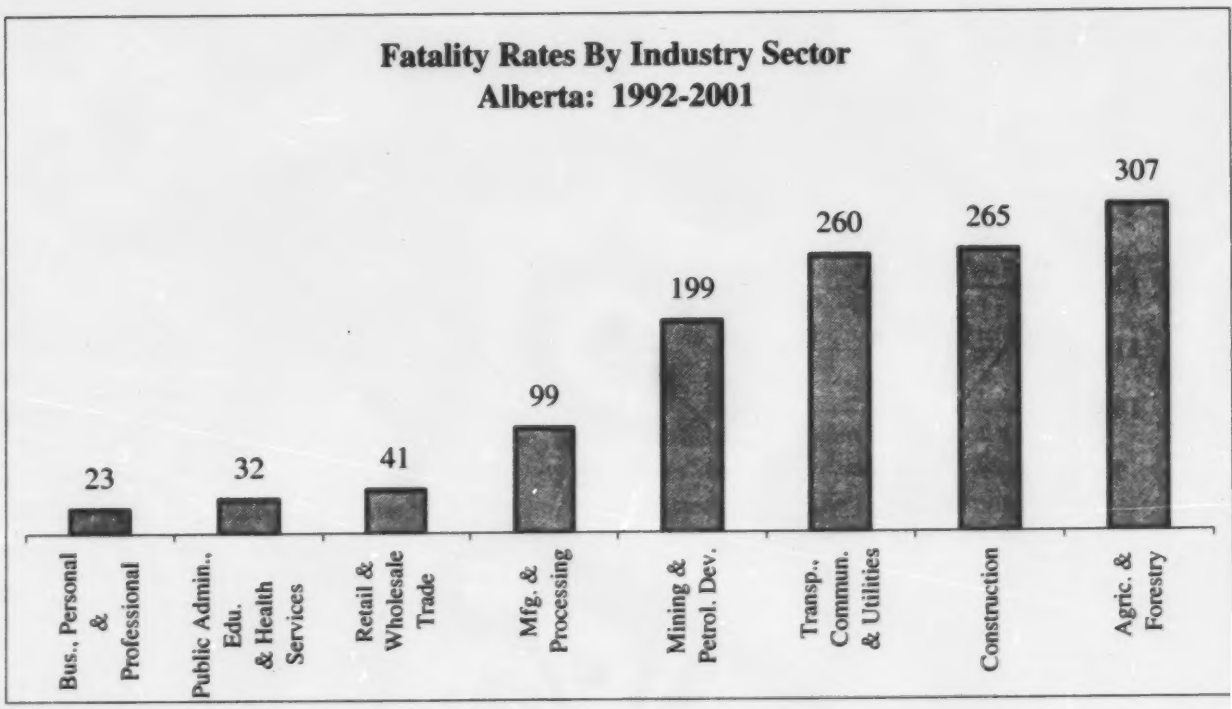


[19] Fatality rates are expressed as fatalities per million person-years worked. Estimates are based upon information provided by WCB. Fatalities occurring under Government of Canada jurisdiction are excluded from the calculation of the fatality rates.

Table 6.2B
Occupational Fatality Rates[20] By Industry Sector
Alberta: 1992-2001

Industry Sector (1992-2001)	Agriculture & Forestry	Mining and Petroleum Development	Manufacturing & Processing	Construction & Construction Trade
Total Fatalities	26	138	123	289
Fatality Rate	307	199	99	265

Industry Sector (1992-2001)	Transportation, Communication & Utilities	Retail & Wholesale Trade	Public Administration, Education & Health Services	Business, Personal & Professional Services
Total Fatalities	196	75	58	36
Fatality Rate	260	41	32	23



[20] Fatality rates are expressed as fatalities per million person-years worked. Estimates are based upon information provided by WCB. Fatalities occurring under Government of Canada jurisdiction are excluded from the calculation of the fatality rates.

References

Alberta Human Resources and Employment: *2000 Summary: Lost-Time Claims and Claim Rates*

Alberta Human Resources and Employment: *2001–2004 Business Plan, April 2001*

Alberta Human Resources and Employment: *Workplace Health and Safety Implementation Plan, 2000-2001*

Statistics Canada's Labour Force Statistics: *Historical 2001*

Workers' Compensation Board, Alberta: *Rate and Industry Description Manual, January 1, 2001*

Workers' Compensation Board, Alberta: *WCB – Alberta 2001 Annual Report*

APPENDIX A
TERMS, DEFINITIONS AND FORMULAS

Appendix A: Terms, Definitions, and Formulas

Lost-Time Claim

A lost-time claim (LTC) is a claim for an occupational injury or disease, which disables the worker beyond the day of injury. Included are claims for which wages compensation are paid, permanent disability claims, fatalities, and cases in which the injured worker is assigned light duties or other modified work.

Person-Years

Person-year estimates are calculated from wage and payroll data provided by account holders to the WCB. Alberta Human Resources and Employment uses these data to estimate an average industry wage, and uses the average industry wage and employer payroll data to estimate person-years for each employer and each industry. One person-year is equivalent to one full-time worker working for one year, and can be assumed to equal 2,000 hours worked.

LTC Rate

The lost-time claim (LTC) rate is calculated by dividing the number of lost-time claims by the person-year estimate, and multiplying the result by 100. The LTC rate represents the probability or risk of disabling injury or disease to a worker during a period of one-year work. Comparisons of LTC rates between industries, or between years, can be used to indicate increases, decreases, or differences in this risk.

$$\text{LTC Rate} = \frac{\text{Number of LTCs X 100}}{\text{Estimated Person-years}}$$

Duration (Days Lost)

The duration of disability is the number of days following the injury or disease for which the worker was disabled, and unable to perform normal work duties. This information is obtained for this report from data on compensation days paid on each claim from WCB. Alberta Human Resources and Employment obtains these data on March 31 of the year following the claim year, and does not update the information, even though many injured workers continue to be disabled beyond this date. As a result, the duration information reported here underestimates the true impact of lost-time injury and disease.

Duration Rate

The duration rate is calculated by dividing the number of workdays lost (disability days) by the person-year estimate, and multiplying by 100. The result is expressed as days lost per 100 person-years worked, and indicates, in part, the economic impact of occupational injury and disease. Duration rates are not recommended as reliable indicators of full economic cost. In addition, readers are warned that duration rates are highly unstable when based on only a few lost-time claims; it is recommended that the duration rate not be calculated based upon fewer than 30 lost-time claims.

$$\text{Duration Rate} = \frac{\text{Disability Days X 100}}{\text{Estimated Person-Years}}$$

Industry Coverage

This report includes all industry activity in Alberta covered by the Alberta WCB for occupational injury and disease to workers. Most industry sectors are included but notable exceptions include agriculture and finance. Several professional groups (e.g., the teaching and medical professions) are also excluded. Government of Canada is excluded except where the WCB pays administration or enhanced disability cost. Claims from the Government of Alberta employees are only included if the duration is longer than 80 days. About 75% of employed persons in Alberta are represented in this report.

WCB Accepted Fatality

An occupational fatality is the death of a worker which resulted from a work-related incident or exposure and which has been accepted by the WCB for compensation. A fatality is counted in the year it is accepted.

Fatality Rate

The fatality rate is calculated by dividing the number of accepted fatalities by the person-years estimate and multiplying the result by one million. The result is expressed as fatalities per million person-years worked. Government of Canada fatalities are excluded before the calculation of the fatality rate.

$$\text{Fatality Rate} = \frac{\text{Number of fatalities} \times 1{,}000{,}000}{\text{Estimated Person-years}}$$

NEC

Means 'Not Elsewhere Classified'.

UNS

Means 'Unspecified'.

APPENDIX B
WCB INDUSTRY CODES

Appendix B: - 2001 Sector Codes[21]

1. Agriculture & Forestry Sector

Industry Codes: 01100, 01300, 01700, 01900, 01901, 01903, 02102, 02109, 02110, 03100, 03902, 04100, 60201, 62908, 85902

Sub-sector Codes:

Sub-sector	Industry
Agriculture	01100, 01300, 01700, 01900, 01901, 01903, 02102, 02109, 02110, 04100, 60201, 62908, 85902
Forestry	03100, 03902

2. Mining & Petroleum Development Sector

Industry Codes: 06100, 06110, 06111, 06300, 06305, 06501, 06600, 06601, 07700, 08701, 09200, 09201, 09600, 09903, 09904, 09911, 09915, 09921, 34101, 34300, 42103, 42130, 42150, 51500, 51501, 73702

Sub-sector Codes:

Sub-sector	Industry
Coal Mining	06100, 06110, 06111, 08701
Pipeline Cleaning and Transmission	51500, 51501
Petroleum Producers	06300
Mine or Process Tar Sands & Salt	06600, 07700
Exploration	09200, 09201
Drilling of Wells	09600
Well Servicing with Service Rigs	09903
Oilfield Downhole Services	09911

[21] Codes are Workers' Compensation Board industry codes

3. Manufacturing & Processing Sector

Industry Codes: 01103, 02101, 02112, 07900, 10100, 10104, 10500, 11202, 12301, 12304, 12400, 12900, 13100, 13101, 13300, 13500, 13900, 13904, 13905, 14100, 14300, 14500, 16900, 16901, 16902, 17200, 17900, 17901, 21300, 22101, 22900, 22901, 24900, 25100, 25401, 25900, 25901, 26101, 26104, 26401, 27102, 27103, 27200, 27300, 27402, 28600, 28603, 28800, 28900, 29100, 29102, 29200, 29600, 29700, 30100, 30101, 30403, 30407, 30412, 30700, 30801, 33500, 33602, 33606, 33900, 33902, 34100, 34500, 34700, 34702, 34800, 35200, 35401, 36500, 37201, 37301, 37402, 37801, 37805, 38100, 38200, 38201, 38500, 39300, 39701, 39901, 62304, 62500, 62700, 69903, 86201, 86202, 89301, 89401, 89916

Sub-sector Codes:

Sub-sector	Industry
Meat, Hides, and Pelt Products	01103, 10100, 10104, 17200
Clothing and Textile Products	17900, 21300, 22900, 22901, 24900
Food and Beverage Products	02101, 02112, 10500, 11202, 12301, 12400, 12900, 13100, 13101, 13300, 13500, 13900, 13904, 13905, 14100, 14300, 14500, 37402
Wood Products	25100, 25401, 25900, 25901, 27102, 27103
Furniture and Allied Products	26101, 26104
Printing and Publishing Products	27402, 28600, 28800, 28900, 86202, 89301
Foundries (not Steel), Rubber, and Non-metallic Products	16901, 27200, 29700, 34100, 34500, 34700, 34702, 34800, 35200, 35401, 38500,
Fabricated and Primary Metal (esp. Steel) Products	26401, 29100, 29102, 29200, 30100, 30101, 30403, 30407, 30412, 30700, 30801, 33602, 33606, 62500, 62700, 89401
Industrial Equipment	16902, 38100, 62304
Gases, Fertiliser, and Petrochemical-Refining & Mfg,	36500, 37201, 37801, 37805
Plastic Products	37301

4. Construction & Construction Trade Services Sector

Industry Codes: 01904, 01905, 02100, 02103, 02105, 02200, 06304, 06306, 09902, 09927, 30302, 31501, 31507, 31508, 35301, 40400, 40401, 40602, 40604, 40901, 40905, 40907, 42102, 42104, 42105, 42106, 42109, 42110, 42111, 42113, 42115, 42117, 42118, 42120, 42121, 42122, 42124, 42125, 42127, 42128, 42129, 42131, 42133, 42135, 42136, 42139, 42141, 42144, 42151, 42156, 42158, 42159, 42160, 42161, 42184, 51502, 51503, 51504, 51506, 86401, 86413, 86911, 86922, 89600, 89605, 89928

Sub-sector Codes:

Sub-sector	Industry
Drywall and Residential Construction	02100, 40401, 42111, 42113, 42115, 42125, 42133, 42135, 42136, 42141
Glaziers	30302, 42121
Industrial Construction	40400, 42104, 42105, 42106, 42109, 42120, 42127, 42156, 42159, 42161, 51504, 86911, 89605
Masonry	42102
Mechanical, Electrical and Insulation	31508, 42110, 42117, 42122, 42124, 42144, 42184, 89600
Roadbuilders	40602, 40604, 40905
Roofers	42118, 42139, 42151
Scaffolders	89928

5. Transportation, Communication & Utilities Sector

Industry Codes: 27400, 42155, 50100, 50104, 50105, 50106, 50107, 50200, 50201, 50203, 50607, 50701, 50714, 50720, 50800, 50801, 50802, 51200, 51705, 52700, 54300, 54301, 54501, 57200, 57400, 57901, 65402, 85100, 85907, 85914, 85918, 85934

Sub-sector Codes:

Sub-sector	Industry
Transportation Sub-sectors	
Air Services	50100, 50104, 50105, 50106, 50107, 50200 50201, 50203
Rail Services	50607
Trucking Services	42155, 50701, 50714, 50720
Bus, Taxi, and Limousine Services	50800, 50801, 50802, 51200
Communications and Entertainment Sub-sectors.	
Radio, TV, Movies Live Theatre and Ballet	54300, 85100, 85907, 85914, 85918, 85934
Telecommunication, Closed Circuit TV, and Cable Vision	54301, 54501
Utilities Sub-sectors	
Utilities-Electric	57200
Utilities-Natural Gas	57400
Garbage Collection, Recycle, Disposal and Towing Services	27400, 57901, 65402

6. Retail & Wholesale Services Sector

Industry Codes: 16300, 25403, 33901, 37902, 52400, 60800, 62200, 62201, 62300, 62302, 62303, 62701, 62900, 62903,63100, 63103, 63105, 64200, 65400, 65406, 65600, 65800, 65808, 65809, 66300, 66900, 67300, 67601, 67602, 67604, 67802, 68100, 69100, 69200, 69300, 69301, 69500, 69901, 69904, 69912, 69914, 69915, 69916, 86905, 86909, 89100, 89908, 89910, 89922

Sub-sector Codes:

Sub-sector	Industry
Wholesale Operations	62900
Food and Beverage Stores	63100, 63103, 63105, 65406, 69916
Industrial and Farm Equipment and Products	37902, 52400, 60800, 62200, 62201, 62302, 62303, 69300, 86905, 89910,
Automobiles, Sport Vehicles, Small engines, and Trailers	16300, 62701, 65400, 65600, 65800, 65808, 65809, 69912, 69915, 89922,
Office, Medical, and Entertainment Equipment	33901, 62300, 67602
Yard and Home Improvement Centres	25403, 69301
Other Retail Services	62903, 64200, 66300, 66900, 67300, 67601, 67604, 67802, 68100, 69100, 69200, 69500, 69901, 69904, 69914, 86909, 89100, 89908

7. Public Administration, Education & Health Services Sector

Industry Codes: 36502, 57601, 57602, 80102, 80103, 80105, 80106, 80301, 80302, 80305, 80311, 80500, 80700, 80701, 82100, 82704, 82705, 82710, 82712, 82801, 82806, 82808, 82812, 85909, 86927, 86930, 89923, 89925, 93200, 93201, 93202, 95100, 95101, 95102, 95104, 95105, 95108

Sub-sector Codes:

Sub-sector	Industry
Public Administration Sub-sector.	
Alberta Govt Public Services	93200, 93201, 93202
Villages, Towns, and Cities	95100, 95101, 95104
Other Public Administration	36502, 57601, 57602, 82712, 86930, 95102, 95105, 95108
Education Services Sub-sectors	
Education, Museums, and Libraries	80102, 80103, 80105, 80106, 80301, 80302, 80305, 80311, 80500, 80700, 80701, 86927, 89923
Health Services Sub-sectors.	
Health Care Centres	82100, 82705
Health and Social Services	82704, 82710, 82801, 82806, 82808, 82812, 85909, 89925

8. Business, Personal & Professional Services Sector

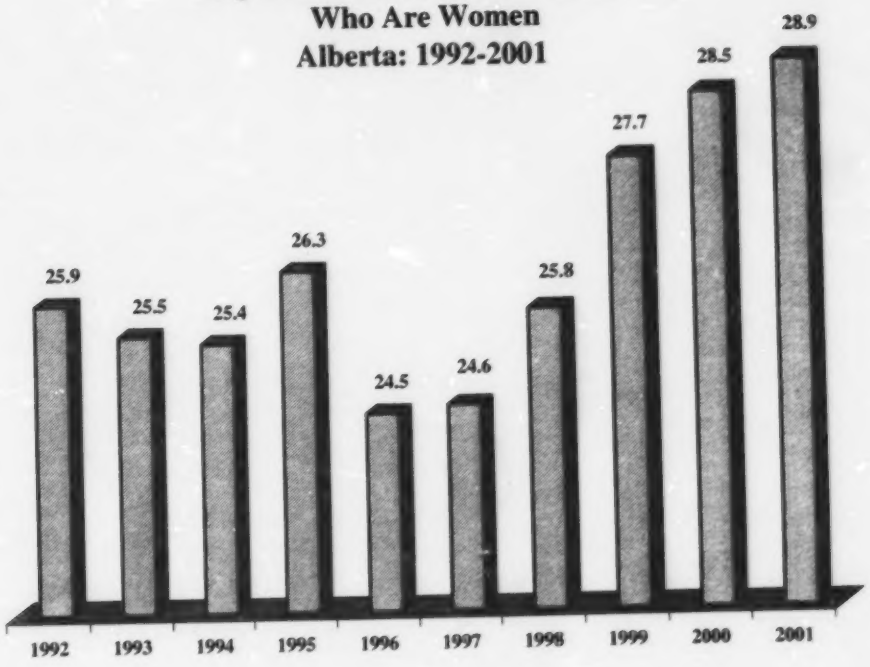
Industry Codes: 02104, 02116, 02117, 09900, 37401, 38101, 38102, 51701, 51902, 52705, 62904, 70200, 73500, 73501, 80703, 82500, 82700, 82701, 82703, 82800, 83100, 85300, 85900, 85901, 85904, 85916, 85919, 85922, 85925, 86200, 86400, 86403, 86405, 86408, 86409, 86410, 86411, 86414, 86600, 86901, 86902, 86906, 86907, 86913, 86918, 86920, 86921, 86923, 87200, 87300, 87301, 87400, 87401, 87402, 87500, 87501, 87502, 87503, 87505, 87508, 87510, 87600, 87603, 87700, 87900, 89101, 89104, 89701, 89702, 89703, 89704, 89705, 89901, 89902, 89907, 89913, 89924, 89927, 93109, 93113

Sub-sector Codes:

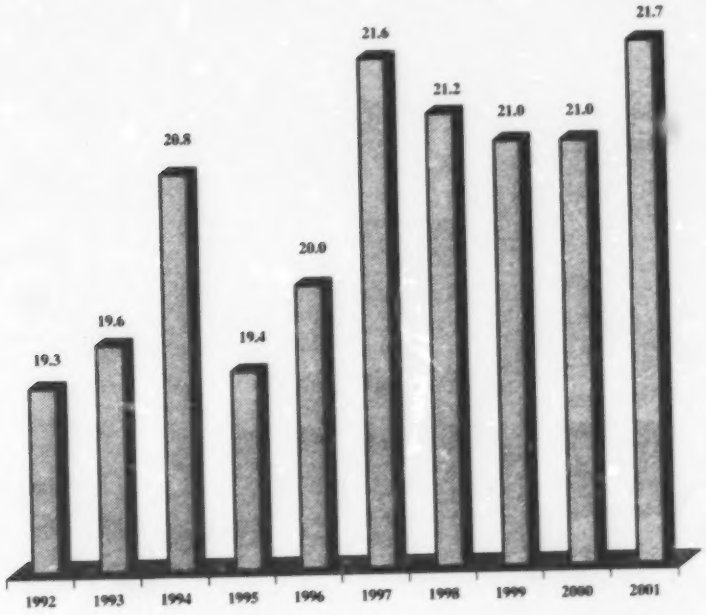
Sub-sector	Industry
Business Services Sub-sectors...	
Building and Ground Maintenance	87500, 87510, 89702
Engineering, Architectural, Designing and Research Services	09900, 86400, 86403, 86405, 86408, 86409, 86410, 86411, 86414, 86913, 86923, 89927
Personal Services Sub-sectors... Personal Services-Maintenance	87300, 87301, 89701, 89703, 89704, 89705
Restaurant, Hotel, and Recreation Services	51701, 51902, 80703, 85300, 85900, 85901, 85904, 85916, 85919, 85922, 87501, 87502, 87503, 87508, 87600, 87603, 89901, 89907
Other Personal Services	83100, 87200, 87400, 87401, 87402, 87700, 87900
Professional Services Sub-sectors...	
Animal Care Services	02104, 02116, 02117
Private Health Services & Seniors' Accommodations	37401, 38101, 38102, 82500, 82700, 82701, 82703, 82800

APPENDIX C
SELECTED GRAPHS

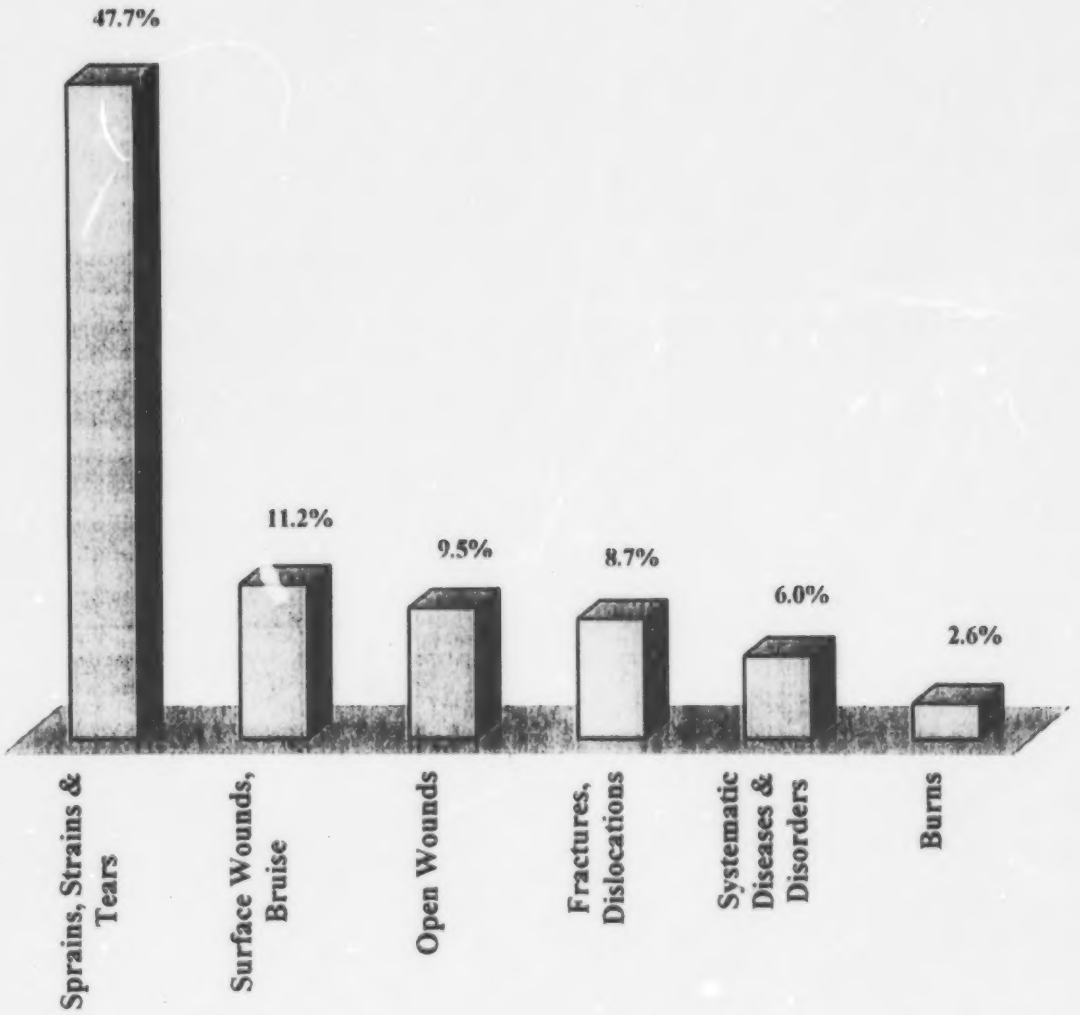
Proportion of Lost-Time Claimants
Who Are Women
Alberta: 1992-2001



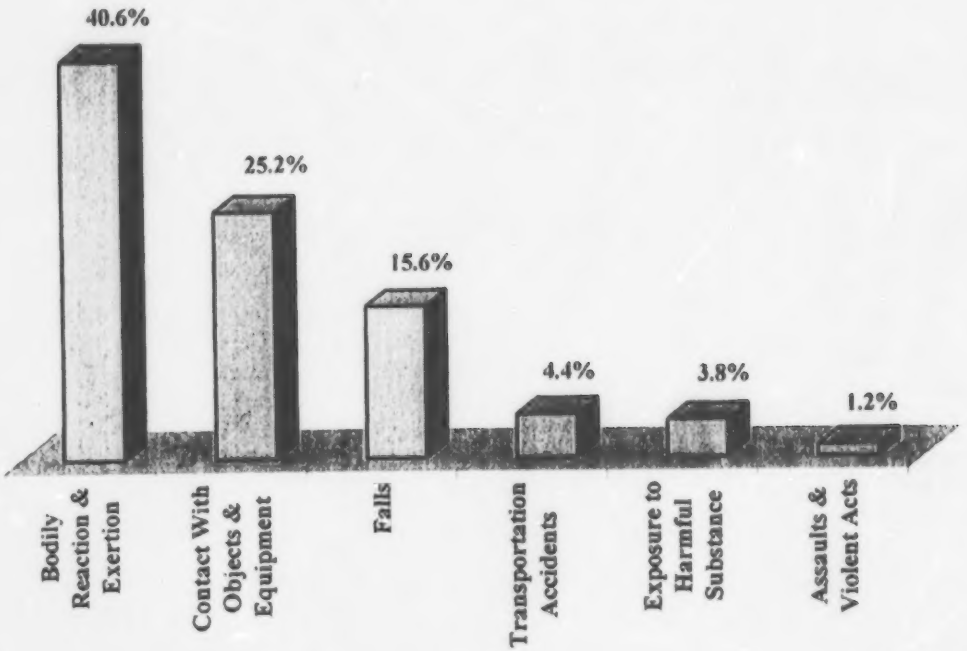
Proportion of Lost-Time Claimants
Who Are Young (Age 15-24)
Alberta: 1992-2001



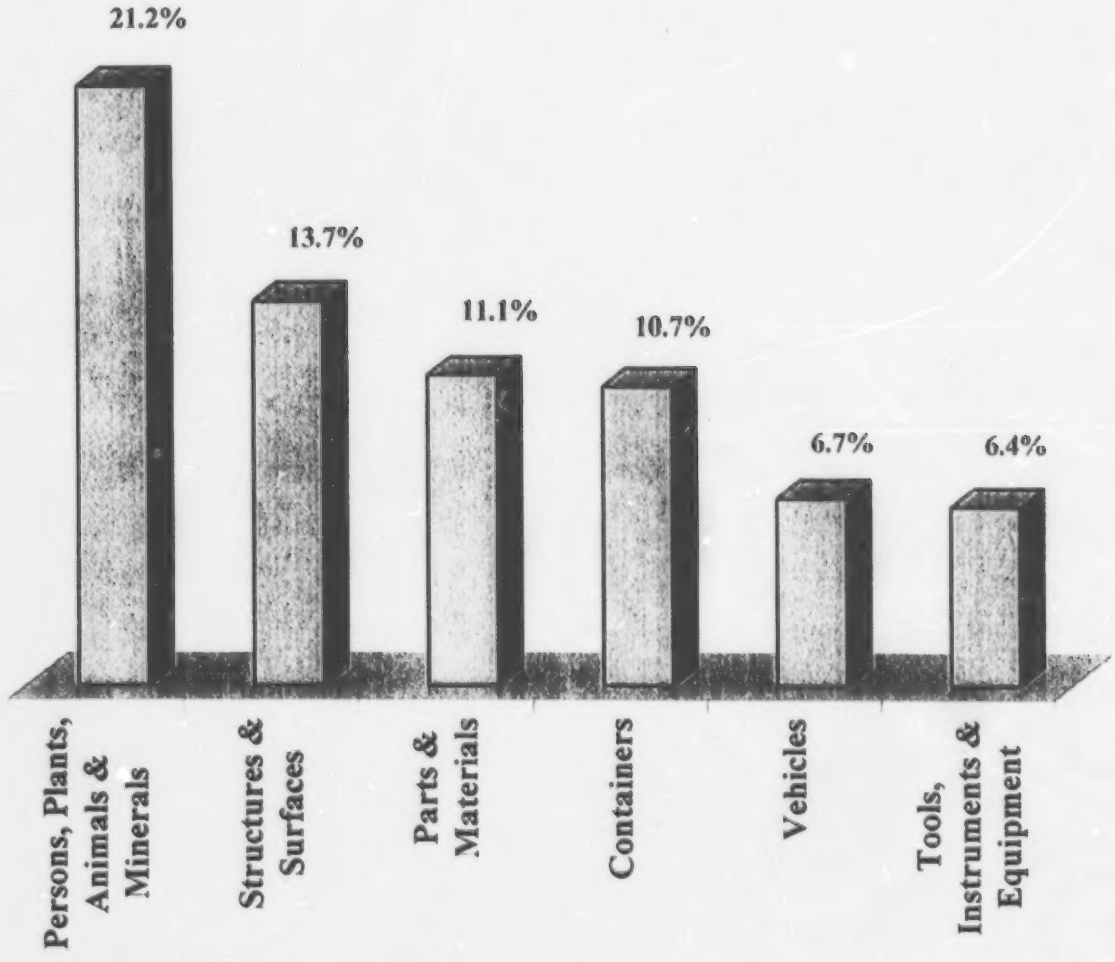
LOST-TIME CLAIMS BY COMMON NATURE OF INJURY OR DISEASE ALBERTA, 2001



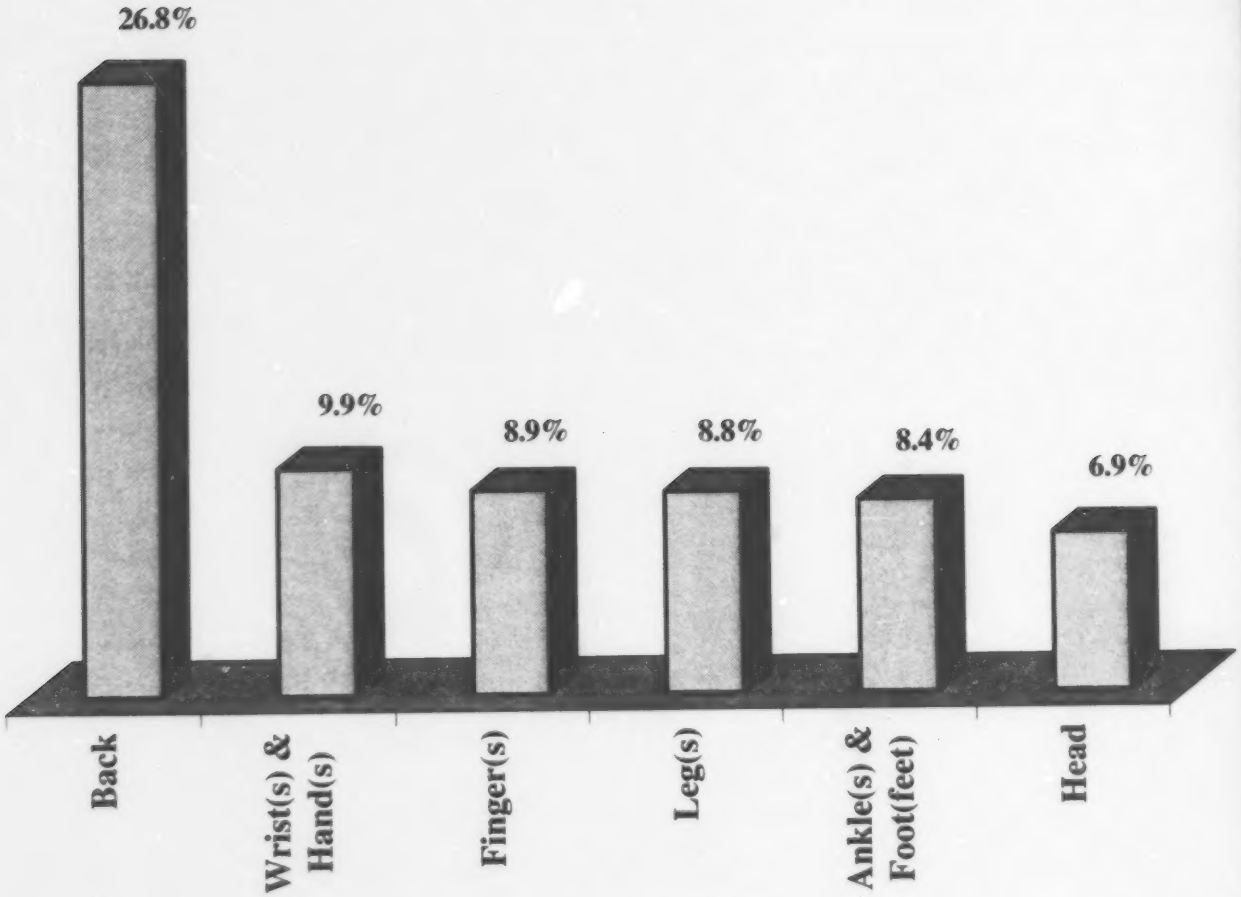
LOST-TIME CLAIMS BY COMMON TYPE OF EVENT OR EXPOSURE ALBERTA, 2001



LOST-TIME CLAIMS BY COMMON SOURCE OF INJURY OR DISEASE ALBERTA, 2001



LOST-TIME CLAIMS BY COMMON PART OF BODY INJURED ALBERTA, 2001



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Alberta Workplace Health and Safety website:
http://www.whs.gov.ab.ca